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The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Chronicle

1926

An Annual Record of the First and Second Battalions
Formerly the 43rd and 52nd Light Infantry

Compiled and Edited
by
THE CHRONICLE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

VOLUME XXXIV
January to December 1926

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C. G. HIGGINS.

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PREFACE

It is much to be regretted that on the eve of the serious part of the preparation of this number, Henry Birch-Reynardson had to resign the editorship of the *Chronicle*, having received an appointment which necessitated him leaving England for South Africa.

Thus ends the reign of the last of our three literary giants. Into the sudden breach so caused, very fearful lest I should do aught to injure our family book, I allowed myself to be thrust. But, fortunately, the success of the *Chronicle* does not depend on the contributions of its editor, but on the literary efforts of its subscribers. And there is, I am glad to say, ample evidence to show that there is still no dearth of talent in this direction amongst the past and present officers of the regiment. All that is required is their contributions.

It must be remembered, however, that twenty-five years of most diligent research work by former editors into the past history and records of the regiment has greatly exhausted our literary material under this heading.

We are, therefore, more dependent than we were formerly on matters of contemporary history for filling our pages. This can only be supplied by serving officers.

In conclusion, I would say that this number of the *Chronicle* not only marks a new editor, but moreover a change of publishers.

Allowances must be made for both of us.

C. G. Higgins.

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THE
OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LIGHT INFANTRY CALENDAR
1926

When no Regiment or Battalion is named, the event recorded refers to both the 43rd and 52nd.

Thick type denotes Honours on the Colours or in the Army List.

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JANUARY.

2 S — 1859, Pte. H. Addison, 43rd, gained the V.C. in Punnah Jungle, Indian Mutiny.

7 Th — 1756, 52nd, raised as 54th Foot.

16 S — 1809, Battle of **Corunna**; death of Sir John Moore.

18 M — 1803, 52nd made Light Infantry.

FEBRUARY.

18 Th — 1900, 43rd at the battle of **Paardeberg**.

26 F — 1852, loss of *Birkenhead* off Danger Point, South Africa; the 43rd had a draft of 1 officer, 1 sergeant, and 40 rank and file on board, of whom only 1 officer (Lieut. Giradot) and 14 rank and file were saved.

27 S — 1900, 43rd, present at the surrender of Cronje and 4,072 Boers at **Paardeberg**, after 9 days' investment.

MARCH.

13 S — 1900, 43rd took part in the capture of Bloemfontein.

28 S — 1918, 52nd heavily engaged in Aveluy Wood.

APRIL.

6 Tu — 1812, 43rd and 52nd at the storming of **Badajoz**.

13 Tu — 1917, battle of **Vimy Ridge**, 52nd present.

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MAY.

8 S — 1801, Major General John Moore appointed Colonel of the 52nd.

15 S — 1915, battle of **Festubert**, 52nd attack at Richebourg; casualties, 20 officers and 375 men.

31 M — 1816, 2nd Bn. 52nd, finally disbanded at Canterbury.
1915, advance on Amara (Tigris); 43rd capture Norfolk Hill.

JUNE.

18 F — 1815, battle of **Waterloo**, 52nd under command of Sir J. Colborne, defeat the French Imperial Guard.

21 M — 1813, battle of **Vittoria**. 1864, 43rd engaged at Te Ranga; Captain Smith 43rd awarded the V.C.

JULY.

1 Th — 1881, 43rd and 52nd formed into the Oxfordshire Light Infantry.

17 S — 1803, 43rd made Light Infantry.

28 W — 1809, the Light Brigade started at dawn on the famous forced march on Talavera (52 miles in 26 hours with only 17 stragglers).

AUGUST.

14 S — 1914, 52nd disembarked at Boulogne.

23 M — 1914, 52nd at the battle of **Mons**.

31 Tu — 1782, orders issued connecting the 52nd with the county of Oxfordshire, and the 43rd with Monmouthshire.

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SEPTEMBER.

13 M — 1759, 43rd engaged in the battle of **Quebec**.

14 Tu — 1857, 52nd engaged at the storming of the Cashmere Gate, **Delhi**; V.C.'s won by L.-Cpl. Smith and Bugler Hawthorne.

25 S — 1915, battle of **Loos**, 52nd attack at Givenchy (casualties, 9 officers and 226 men).

OCTOBER.

12 Tu — 1851, 43rd left England for the Kaffir War.

16 S — 1908, the title of the Regiment changed to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

21 Th — 1914, battle of **Langemarck**, 52nd heavily engaged.

NOVEMBER.

11 Th — 1914, 52nd attacked and routed the Prussian Guard at battle of **Nonne Bosschen**.
1918, Armistice with Germany declared.

22 M — 1915, battle of **Ctesiphon**, 43rd heavily engaged (casualties, 14 officers and 450 men).

DECEMBER.

11 S — 1837, 43rd commenced the famous winter march from Fredericton to Quebec, proceeding in sleighs holding six to eight men.

14 Tu — 1783, 52nd took part in the storming of Cannanore. The "Forlorn Hope" consisted of 1 officer, 1 sergeant, and 31 rank and file of the Regiment, nearly all of whom were killed or wounded.

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THE ARMY LIST—DECEMBER, 1926

THE OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

South Midland Area.

The United Red and White Rose.

"Quebec, 1759," "Martinique, 1762," "Havannah," "Mysore," "Hindoostan," "Martinique, 1794," "Vimiera," "Corunna," "Busaco," "Fuentes d'Onor," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Salamanca," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Waterloo," "South Africa, 1851-2-3," "Delhi, 1857," "New Zealand," "Relief of Kimberley," "Paardeberg," "South Africa, 1900-2."

The Great War—17 *Battalions*.—"Mons," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "Ypres, 1914, '17," "Langemarck, 1914, '17," "Gheluvelt," "Nonne Bosschen," "Aubers," "Festubert, 1915," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Mount Sorrel," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Guillemont," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume 1917, '18," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Lys," "Hazebrouck," "Béthune," "Hindenburg Line," "Havrincourt," "Canal du Nord," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto," "Italy, 1917-18." "Doiran, 1917, '18," "Macedonia, 1915-18." "Kut al Amara, 1915," "Ctesiphon," "Defence of Kut al Amara," "Khan Baghdadi" "Mesopotamia, 1915-18." "Archangel, 1918."

Regimental Journal—The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Journal, Cowley Barracks, Oxford.
Regimental Association—Cowley Barracks, Oxford.

Agents—Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Cox's & King's Branch.

Regular and Militia Battalions.

Uniform—Scarlet. *Facings*—White.

1st Bn. (43rd Foot)	*Rhine.*	3rd Bn. (Oxford Mil.)	*Oxford.*
2nd „ (52nd „)	*Chakrata.*		
Depot	*Oxford.*	Record and Pay Office	*Warwick.*

Territorial Army Battalion.

4th Bn.	*St. Cross Road, Oxford.*	The Buckinghamshire Bn.	*Drill Hall, Market Square, Aylesbury.*

Allied Regiment of Dominion of New Zealand.

The Hauraki Regiment .. .. .. *Morrinsville.*

Colonel .. Hanbury-Williams, Maj.-Gen. *Sir* John, *G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G.*, ret. pay .. 6/4/15

Officer Commanding Depot .. Sanderson, Maj. A. E., *D.S.O.*, Oxf. & Bucks. L.I. .. 15/2/24

1st and 2nd Battalions (Regular).

Lt.-Colonels (2).

Bayley, A. G. *C.B.E., D.S.O., p.s.c.* (1) 21/12/23
bt. col. 23/6/23
Freestun, W. H. M., *C.M.G., D.S.O.* (2) 17/12/24
3/6/17

Majors (8).

Whinney, H. F., *D.S.O., O.B.E.*, (1) 1/9/15
Sanderson, A. E., *D.S.O.* (1) *d.* 10/3/23
1/1/18
Whittall, G. E., *M.C., s.* 21/12/23
3/6/17
Portal, J. L., *D.S.O.* (2) 15/2/24
Tolson, W. G., *M.C., s.v.* 15/2/24
Paget, B. C. T., *D.S.O., M.C., p.s.c., s.* 15/2/24
bt. lt.-col. 1/7/25
Powell, J. J., *f.s.* (1) 2/3/24
Paris, A. C. M., *M.C., p.s.c., s.* 20/7/26
1/1/23

Captains (14).

Plowden, G. F., *M.C.* (1) 10/6/15
Brett, R. J., D.S.O., *p.s.c.* (1) *Adjt.* 18/10/15
bt. maj. 1/1/19
Birch Reynardson, H. T., s. 1/5/20
25/11/15
Horan, K. (2) 14/12/15
Titherington, G. W., s.f. 2/3/16
bt. maj. 3/6/18
Withington, T. E., *A.F.C.* (*l*) (2) 30/7/16
Whitfeld, E. H., M.C., *m.c.* 1/1/17
Bailie, C. W. H. (1) 1/1/17
Meade, J. W. (1) *d.* 1/1/17
Naylor, G., M.C., *t.* 1/1/17
Barnard, W. L. (2) 2/2/21
Crawford, C. B. (2) 1/3/21
Smyth, H. E. F., *M.C.* (1) 5/3/21
Baddeley, E. L. O. (1) 23/3/21
Stevens, C. G. B., s. 9/4/21
Burt-Smith, B., *M.C.* (1) 1/1/23
Horley, C. R., M.C., *s.* 1/1/23
Packe, E. A., *M.B.E.*, (1) *D.F.C.* 1/1/23
Booth, P. (2) *d.* 1/2/23
Eagle, H. S. (2) 14/2/23
Vernon, H., c.o. 15/2/23
Smith, E. A., *M.C.* (2) 15/2/23
VC *Toye, A. M.*, M.C., e.a. 26/4/24
Evston, C. J., s. 4/5/25
Giles, L. W., *M.C.* (1) 16/5/25
Colvill, D. C., *M.C.* (2) 16/5/25

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THE OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY—*contd.*

1st and 2nd Battalions—*contd.*

Captains—contd.

Ames, W. A. R. (2) 28/4/26
Slattery, S. C. P. (1) 9/5/26

Subalterns (34).

Lieutenants.

Hamilton, A. B. (1) 27/4/18
Coad, R. H., M.M., *i.* 23/8/18
Wootten, K. S. (2) 5/1/19
Randall, L. R. (1) *d.* 5/1/19
Yeoman, W. T. (2) 1/6/19
Jefferson, K. S. (*Spec. Appt.*) 21/6/19
Doyne, R. H. (1) 24/10/19
Thorne, J. (2) 24/10/19
Clarke, W. G. (2) *s.* 21/2/20
Newton-King, D. S., s.f. 20/12/20
Jarvis, J. B. (1) 16/7/21
Kilburn, J. E. D. (2) 16/7/21
Last, M. H. S. (1) 15/12/21
Stebbing, J. L. (L) *c.o.* 24/12/22
Theobalds, J. A., *d.* 14/7/23
Richards, E. C. (2) *Adjt.* 23/12/23
Stephens, M. T. (2) 23/12/23
Graham, J. P. A. G. (1) 23/12/23
Conant, R. T. (2) 31/8/24
Branson, C. W. P. (1) 1/2/25
Hughes, G. G. (2) 31/1/26
Wykeham, G. C. H. (2) 31/1/26
Slessor, A. B. (1) 27/8/26
Bayley, K (2) *d.* 27/8/26
Bernard, *Hon.* C. B. A. (1) 27/8/26
Metcalfe, P. F. (2) 30/8/26
Cooke, R. H. (1) 30/8/26

2nd Lieutenants.

Ward, C. L. C. (2) 29/1/25
Alston-Roberts-West, M. M. (1) 3/9/25
Horan, F. T. (2) 3/9/25
Clifton, C. (1) 3/9/25
Boileau, P. C. (1) 15/1/26
Palmer, J. D. (2) 4/2/26
Lathbury, G. W. (1) 4/2/26
Rowley, T. G. D. (1) 4/2/26
Edmunds, J. S. R. (1) 30/8/26
Ducat Hamersley, H. J. C. (1) 30/8/26
Falkiner, L. L. (2) 30/8/26

Adjutants (2).

Richards, E. C., *lt.* (2) 1/3/25
Brett, R. J., *D.S.O., p.s.c., capt.* (*bt. maj.*) (1) 30/10/26

Quartermasters (3).

Mason, A. E., *d.* 7/11/14
capt. 3/6/19
Clare, F., *D.C.M., lt.* (2) 30/6/24
Smith, E., *lt.* (1) 9/9/26

3rd Battalion (Militia).

Hon. Colonel.

⚔*Marlborough*, Rt. Hon. the Duke of, K.G., T.D., *t.a.* 14/6/08

Captain.

⚔Godsal, P. *M.C.* 7/6/02

4th Battalion (Territorial).

St. Cross Road, Oxford.

Hon. Colonel.

North, The Lord, T.D. 9/1/95

Lt.-Colonel.

⚔Ballard, J. A. (*Lt.-Col. ret. pay*) (*Res. of Off.*) *t.a.* 7/10/24

Major.

⚔Long, B., *M.C.* 26/11/24

Captains.

⚔Symonds, R. F., *t.a.* 4/8/17
⚔Edmunds, M. W., *t.a.* 16/6/20
⚔Smith, S. 2/9/21
⚔Shaw, J. W. (*Lt. Res. of Off.*) 28/1/25
⚔Spencer, A. V., *D.S.O.* 6/2/26

Lieutenants.

⚔Young, A. R. R. 24/7/20
Moore, E. D. 10/1/25
⚔Crowdy, R. St. J. 21/11/25
Whinney, D. H. 12/3/29

2nd Lieutenants.

Wakeling, G. R. 15/12/24
Barmby, J. 11/2/25
Clarke, E. G. C. 7/7/25
Good, M. S. 1/7/26
Kane, D. F. (*empld. O.T.C.*) 3/7/26
16/1/16
Lister, C. H. 13/12/26
Tawney, J. J. 15/12/26

Adjutant.

⚔Naylor, G., *M.C.*, Capt. Oxf. & Bucks. L.I. 5/11/23

Quartermaster.

⚔Arlett, G. T., *D.C.M., lt.* 1/7/12

(Uniform—*Scarlet.* Facings—*White.*)

Officer of the General List (T.A.) affiliated.

Dingwall, Lt. W. S. (*St. Edward's Sch. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.*) 25/7/26

Cadet Units affiliated.

Burford Grammar School C. Corps.
Lord William's Grammar School, Thame, C. Corps.
Henley Royal Grammar School C. Corps.
Banbury County Council C. Corps.

Buckinghamshire Battalion (Territorial).

Drill Hall, Market Square, Aylesbury.

Hon. Colonel.

Cottesloe, The Lord, C.B., V.D., T.D., *t.a.* 2/9/15

Lt.-Colonel.

⚔Hall, P. A., *D.S.O., M.C., T.D., t.a.* 2/12/26

Captains.

⚔Viney, O. V. 1/6/16
bt. maj. 31/12/24
⚔Burnett-Brown, A. D., *M.C.* 1/6/16
⚔*Troutbeck, G. L.* (*attd. O.T.C.*) 10/8/16
⚔Parrott, G. F., *M.C.* 10/2/25
Eliot P. S. 11/2/25
⚔Welbourne, A. C. 9/5/25
⚔Anderson, C. O. D., *M.C.* 23/12/25

Lieutenants.

⚔Norman, R. E. 31/7/20
Sleigh, R. P. 11/7/23
Parshall, H. F. 3/12/23
Meggs, T. E. A. 23/2/25
Sale, R. D. R. 1/6/25

2nd Lieutenants.

Rowland, J. W. 3/7/24
Lucey, C. 13/3/25
Bath, R. E. 9/5/25
Janes, H. R. 24/6/25
Chetwode, R. C. G. 22/7/25
Stevens, R. K. 15/5/26
Watts, J. S. 11/6/26

Adjutant.

⚔Leslie, J. T., *M.C.*, Capt. R. Berks R. 22/12/23

Quartermaster.

⚔Nichol, E., *M.C., capt.* 17/2/15

(Uniform—*Dark Grey.* Facings—*Scarlet.*)

Cadet Unit affiliated.

Slough Secondary School Cadets.

Supplementary Reserve.

Category B.

Lieutenant.

⚔Southam, E. H. 29/5/25

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OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT EXTRA-REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

DECEMBER 31, 1926

RANK.	NAME.	HOW EMPLOYED.
Major ..	G. E. Whittall, M.C. ..	D.A.A.G., Rawal Pindi District India.
Major ..	W. G. Tolson, M.C. ..	Adjutant, The Madras Guards Auxiliary Forces, India.
Major and Bt. Lt.-Col.	B. C. T. Paget, D.S.O., M.C., p.s.c.	G.S.O., 2nd grade, Staff College, Camberley.
Major ..	A.C.M. Paris, M.C., p.s.c.	D.A.A. and Q.M.G., Welsh Area.
Captain ..	H. T. Birch-Reynardson	G.S.O. 3 (Staff Duties Directorate), War Office.
Captain and Bt.-Major	G. W. Titherington ..	Attached Sudan Defence Force.
Captain ..	E. H. Whitfeld, M.C. ..	Officer of a Company of Gentlemen Cadets, R.M.C., Sandhurst.
Captain ..	G. Naylor, M.C. ..	Adjutant, 4th Bn. (Territorial).
Captain ..	C. G. B. Stevens ..	A.D.C. to G.O.C.-in-C. British Army of the Rhine.
Captain ..	C. R. Horley, M.C. ..	Staff Captain, 10th Indian Infantry Brigade, South Waziristan.
Captain ..	H. Vernon	Employed with the 3rd (Kenya) Bn., King's African Rifles.
Captain ..	A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C.	Instructor, Cairo Military School.
Captain ..	C. J. Eyston	Company Commander, Boys' Technical School, Chepstow.
Lieut. ..	R. H. Coad	Adjt. and Qr. Mr., Army School of Education, Belgaum, India.
Lieut. ..	K. S. Jefferson ..	Instructor (Class FF), Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot.
Lieut. ..	W. G. Clarke	A.D.C. to G.O.C. Poona District, India.
Lieut. ..	D. S. Newton-King ..	Attached Sudan Defence Force.
Lieut. ..	J. L. Stebbing	With Iraq Levies (Regimental Officer).

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FORMER OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE AND HALF-PAY LIST OF THE ARMY

DECEMBER 31, 1926

RANK.	NAME.	DATE OF RANK.	ON REGL. STRENGTH.	APPOINTMENT.
Colonel	L. H. R. Pope-Hennessy, D.S.O., p.s.c.	Jan. 1, 1919	1895-1920	Half-pay.
Colonel	J. F. C. Fuller, C.B.E., D.S.O. p.s.c.	Jan 1, 1919	1898-1920	Military Assistant (G.S.O., 1st grade) to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office.
Colonel	F. H. Stapleton, C.M.G. p.s.c.	June 3,	1897-1923	A.A.G. (A.G.'s Dept.) War Office.
Colonel	E. R. Clayton, C.M.G.,D.S.O. p.s.c.	June 3,	1897-1924	Half-pay.
Lt.-Col.	A. C. D. Thorne	Feb. 21, 1926	1900-1901	Supernumerary List (Executive of Officer Cantonment's Dept.), India Army.
Captain	J. B. Slade-Baker	Jan 13, 1919	1915-1920	Ordnance Officer, 4th Class, Dover.
Captain	T. G. C. Caulfeild-Stoker	April 6, 1921	1915-1924	Half-pay.
Captain	R. Pennell, D.S.O.	Aug. 10, 1921	1921-1922	Half-pay.
Captain	S. F. Straight, M.C.	Jan. 6, 1923	1914-1922	Royal Corps of Signals, Catterick.
Captain	F. W. S. Jourdain	Feb. 15, 1923	1922-1923	Royal Corps of Signals, India.
Captain	M. F. M. Parkes, M.C.	Feb. 15, 1923	1915-1924	Royal Corps of Signals, Aldershot.

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FORMER OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT NOW SERVING IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

DECEMBER 31, 1926

RANK.	NAME.	DATE OF RANK.	ON REGL. STRENGTH	APPOINTMENT.
Air-Vice-Marshal	H.R.M. Brooke-Popham, C.B., C.M.G.,D.S.O. A.F.C., p.s.c.	Jan. 1, 1924	1898-1919	Commanding Fighting Area, Air Defences of Great Britain.
Air-Commodore	F. V. Holt, C.M.G.,D.S.O. p.s.a.	July 1, 1925	1904-1919	Air Staff Duties, Headquarters, Air Defences of Great Britain.
Group-Captain	U.J. D.Bourke, C.M.G.	Aug. 8, 1919	1903-1919	Group Captain, Wessex Bombing Area, Air Defences of Great Britain.
Flight-Lieut.	H. V. Pendavis, D.S.O.	June 30, 1923	1915-1919	No. 2 Flying Training School, Digby, Lincolnshire.

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FORMER OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT BELONGING TO THE RESERVE OF OFFICERS, DECEMBER, 1926

(From the Supplement to the Army List for December, 1926, which is corrected up to November 15, 1926, and the "London Gazettes" between November 16, 1926, and December 31, 1926, both dates inclusive.)

(A) GENERAL LIST.

Major-Generals.

Davies, H. R., C.B.
Fanshawe, Sir R., K.C.B., D.S.O., p.s.c. (1) (R) (Hon. Col. 7th Bn. Worc. Regt.).

Colonels (Substantive).

Eden, A. J. F., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Hon. Brig.-Gen.).
Frith, C. H., C.B.E.
Higgins, C. G., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Hon. Brig.-Gen.) (1).

(B) REGIMENTAL LIST.

CLASS I.

Lieut.-Colonels.

Foljambe, Hon. G. W. F. S., D.S.O. ..	February 11, 1919
Sullivan, G. A., D.S.O.	March 11, 1919
Southey, J. A.	July 2, 1919
Bartlett, A. J. N., D.S.O.	August 19, 1919
Crosse, R. B., D.S.O.	March 20, 1920
Weatherby, J. T., D.S.O., p.s.c. ..	December 18, 1920
Ballard, J. A. (Lieut.-Col., 4th Bn.) t.a.	January 14, 1921
Blewitt, G., D.S.O., M.C., p.s.c. ..	February 8, 1922
Boyle, C. R. C., D.S.O.	August 31, 1922

Majors.

Stephens, R. (Major, 4th Bn. Wilts. Regt.)	June 6, 1918
Terry, W. E. C.	December 28, 1921
Dent, L. M. E., D.S.O. (s.c.) ..	June 1, 1922

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Captains.

Mundey, S. C. B.	June 10, 1915
Milne, F. D. R., M.C.	January 26, 1927
Addington, R. N., M.C.	May 14, 1920
Barnes, R. M.	July 18, 1921
Hartland-Rowe, R. C.	February 14, 1923

Lieutenants.

Sturges, O. H. M.	December 10, 1916
Shaw, J. W. (Capt., 4th Bn.)	January 1, 1917
Whitehead, P. H. R.	October 7, 1917
Blyth, E. K.	April 27, 1918
Northam, N. F.	April 27, 1918
Huggard, G. C.	July 4, 1918
Holland, F. C.	June 16, 1919
Winsloe, R. D.	October 24, 1919
Muriel, L. F.	October 10, 1920
Plaistowe, F. H.	December 28, 1920
Sheppard, C. H.	May 13, 1921
D'Arcy, G. C. W.	May 19, 1921
Martyr, A.	January 19, 1922
Woods, H. J.	November 22, 1922

2nd Lieutenants.

Gossage, S. M.	December 6, 1923

CLASS II.

Lieut.-Colonels.

Nisbet, H. C.	March 12, 1919
Ward, L. E. S., C.M.G., D.S.O., s. ..	April 30, 1919
Benson, C. B., D.S.O. (L.)	May 5, 1919
Pollock, J. A., D.S.O.	January 10, 1920
Brooke, N. P., D.S.O. (L.)	May 30, 1923

Majors.

Henley, C. F.	September 1, 1915
Wood, H. L.	September 1, 1915
Morland, W. E. T., D.S.O., M.C. ..	January 18, 1917
Loverock, R. C., D.S.O., O.B.E. ..	August 29, 1922
Sewell, D. A. D., O.B.E., c.o. ..	August 29, 1922
Wyld, J. W. G., D.S.O., M.C. (s.c.)..	February 27, 1924

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Captains.

Field, G., M.C.	September 21, 1916
Cardy, A. G., M.C., D.C.M. ..	January 1, 1917
Wooding, W. W.	January 1, 1917
McEnroy, P., D.S.O., M.C. ..	March 11, 1917
Cumberlege, G. F. J., D.S.O., M.C.	October 3, 1917
McEvoy, E.	August 4, 1919
Clegg, W. E.	August 13, 1919
Tipping, F. W., M.B.E.	November 29, 1919
Murray, C. H.	April 8, 1920
Merrie, D. B.	April 16, 1921
Fulbrook-Leggatt, L. E. W. O., M.C.	February 2, 1922
Sumption, F.	September 1, 1922

Lieutenants.

Vigars, E. H., D.C.M.	August 13, 1917
Isaac, A. H.	February 16, 1918
Murray, J. B.	April 4, 1918
Coleman, W. H. J.	April 21, 1918
Cowan, J. L.	August 14, 1918
Wright, J. W., M.M.	August 15, 1918
Atkins, J.	September 8, 1918
Davidson, M. C.	October 4, 1918
Bennett, A., M.B.E.	February 28, 1919
Haymen, D. E.	March 4, 1919
Cuthbert, C. H.	April 20, 1919
Beckett, G. J.	April 27, 1919
Simmons, E. C.	June 21, 1919
Reddy, T. H.	July 31, 1919
Harman, R. M.	November 29, 1919
Cassidy, J. M.	March 20, 1920
Forse, J. F.	August 28, 1920
Manning, D. E. B.	July 16, 1921
Amherst, Hon. H. W.	September 1, 1926

2nd Lieutenants.

Collins, R. W. G.	March 28, 1924
Kelly, G. F.	February 27, 1918
Crosfield, L. M.	September 26, 1920

Quartermaster.

Heatly, J., Capt.	October 14, 1911

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EXTRACTS FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE," 1926

January 8.—Memoranda. Colonel J. F. C. Fuller, D.S.O., on ceasing to be employed is placed on half pay (January 7).

January 22.—Establishments. Staff College. G.S.O., 2nd grade. Brevet Lieut.-Colonel B. C. T. Paget, D.S.O., M.C. (January 9).

January 26.—Reserve of Officers. General List. Colonel (Hon. Brig.-General) W. Marriott-Doddington, C.M.G., having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers (January 24).

February 2.—2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants: G. G. Hughes, G. C. H. Wykeham (January 31).

February 5.—Gentlemen Cadets from R.M. College, to be 2nd Lieutenants: Lce.-Corpl. James Duncan Palmer, Royal Scots; Gerald William Lathbury; Thomas Guy Dillon Rowley (February 4).

February 9.—Reserve of Officers. Regimental List. Captain A. M. Barnes, late Indian Army, to be Captain, October 7, with seniority July 18, 1921.

February 23.—Commands and Staff. Appointment made at the War Office: G.S.O., 1st grade, Colonel J. F. C. Fuller, D.S.O. (February 19).

March 2.—Commands and Staff. Special appointment. (Cl. G.G.) Lieutenant J. L. Stebbing relinquishes his appointment (February 9).

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March 12.—2nd Lieutenant the Hon. H. W. Amherst to be Lieutenant (January 31).

March 16.—Lieutenant L. W. Giles, M.C., to be Captain June 6, with seniority May 16, 1925, and precedence next above D. C. Colvill, M.C.; Lieutenant J. L. Stebbing is restored to the establishment (February 9).

April 27.—Memoranda. Captain T. Tyrwhitt-Drake, M.C., half-pay list, retires on retired pay on account of ill health (April 28).

Militia. 3rd Battalion. Captain C. A. F. Fowke, M.C., relinquishes his commission on account of ill health and retains the rank of Captain (April 28).

May 18.—Establishments. Boys' Technical School, Chepstow, Captain C. J. Eyston to be Company Commander (April 28).

May 28.—Memoranda. Captain N. G. Clarke, half-pay list on completion of period of five years on half-pay, is placed on retired pay on account of ill health contracted on active service (May 14).

June 1.—Commands and Staff. Colonel L. H. R. Pope-Hennessy, D.S.O., relinquishes the temporary appointment of A.A. and Q.M.G. (June 1); Captain C. J. Eyston is seconded for service as Company Commander, Boys' Technical School (April 28).

June 15.—Memoranda. Colonel L. H. R. Pope-Hennessy, D.S.O., on ceasing to be employed is placed on half-pay (June 1).

July 16.—Reserve of Officers, Regimental List. Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Fielden, C.B.E., having attained

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the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers (July 17).

July 20.—The following Lieutenants to be Captains: W. A. R. Ames (April 28), S. C. P. Slattery (May 9).

Militia. (3rd Battalion) Captain R. H. S. Dashwood relinquishes his commission and is granted the hon. rank of Major (July 19).

July 27.—Lieutenant J. L. Stebbing is seconded for service under the Colonial Office (June 11).

August 17.—Militia. Supplementary to Units or Corps. Captain J. W. Chippindale relinquishes his commission and retains the rank of Captain (August 18).

August 27.—Captain and Brevet Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., to be Major (July 20).

August 31.—Lieutenant the Hon. H. W. Amherst resigns his commission (September 1).

Reserve of Officers. The Hon. H. W. Amherst to be Lieutenant (September 1).

The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military College to be 2nd Lieutenants (August 30): John Stewart Russell Edmunds, Hugh John Cochrane Ducat-Hammersley, Lucien Leslie Falkiner.

September 10.—Quartermaster and Captain F. M. Roberts, M.C., retires on retired pay on reaching the age limit for retirement (September 9).

Bandmaster E. Smith to be Quartermaster with the rank of Lieutenant (September 9).

September 21.—2nd Lieutenant: (University candidate) from General List T.A., to be 2nd Lieutenant

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with seniority, January 15 (September 22). Peter Claude Boileau.

October 29.—Reserve of Officers. General List. Major-General Sir J. Hanbury Williams, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., having reached the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers (October 19).

November 12.—Commands and Staff. The following appointment is made Aide-de-Camp: Captain C. G. B. Stevens (October 1).

November 19.—Captain C. G. B. Stevens is seconded for service on the Staff (October 1).

November 23.—The following Captains are restored to the establishment: Brevet Major R. J. Brett, D.S.O. (October 1), E. L. O. Baddeley (October 16).

December 7.—Captain and Brevet Major R. J. Brett, D.S.O., to be Adjutant vice Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C. (October 30).

December 14.—Memoranda. 2nd Lieutenant A. Croxall relinquishes the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on enlistment (November 12).

December 31.—Supplementary Reserve of Officers. Cadet C.S.M. N. H. Pierce, from Ardingly College, Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C., to be 2nd Lieutenant (January 1, 1927).

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RECORDS OF THE FIRST BATTALION

1926.

ROLL OF OFFICERS—DECEMBER 31ST, 1926.

Colonel.

A. G. Bayley, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Majors.

H. F. Whinney, D.S.O., O.B.E.
J. J. Powell.

Captains.

G. F. Plowden, M.C.
C. W. H. Bailie.
H. E. F. Smyth, M.C.
E. L. O. Baddeley.
B. Burt Smith, M.C.
E. A. Packe, M.B.E., D.F.C.
L. W. Giles, M.C.
S. C. P. Slattery.

Lieutenants.

A. B. Hamilton.
R. H. Doyne.
J. B. Jarvis.
M. H. S. Last.
J. P. A. G. Graham.
C. W. P. Branson.
A. B. Slessor.
The Hon. C. B. A. Bernard.
R. H. Cooke.

2nd Lieutenants.

M. M. Alston Roberts West.
C. Clifton.
G. E. Lathbury.
T. G. D. Rowley.
P. C. Boileau.
J. S. R. Edmunds.
H. J. C. Ducat Hamersley.

Adjutant.

Captain (Bt.-Major) R. J. Brett, D.S.O.

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Quartermaster.

Lieut. E. Smith.

Regimental Sergeant Major.

W. G. Whitton.

Bandmaster.

D. J. Plater.

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant.

C. Moody.

Orderly Room Sergeant.

Colour-Sergeant G. Ridgway.

Instructor of Musketry.

Sergeant S. F. Burnell.

STRENGTH OF FIRST BATTALION. DECEMBER 31, 1926

Officers	29
Warrant Officers—Class I and II	8
Sergeants	28
Corporals	43
Buglers	16
Privates	567
Total	691

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COMPANIES OF THE FIRST BATTALION.—DECEMBER 31ST, 1926.

Coy.	Commander.	2nd Captain.	Platoon Commander.	C.S.M.	C.Q.M.S.
A.	Captain L. W. Giles, M.C.	——	Lieut. A. B. Hamilton. Lieut. C. W. P. Branson. 2nd Lieut. J. S. R. Edmunds.	Farindon.	Keen.
B.	Captain C. W. H. Bailie.	Captain E. L. O. Baddeley.	Lieut. R. H. Doyne. Lieut. A. B. Slessor. 2nd Lieut. T. G. D. Rowley.	Sheppard.	Holland.
C.	Captain G. F. Plowden, M.C.	Captain S. C. P. Slattery	2nd Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West. 2nd Lieut. P. C. Boileau. 2nd Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley.	Warnock.	Norris.
D.	Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C.	Captain B. Burt-Smith, M.C.	Lieut. J. B. Jarvis. Lieut. R. H. Cooke. 2nd Lieut. C. Clifton 2nd Lieut. G. W. Lathbury.	Clarke, M.M.	Chantry.
H.Q. Wing.	Major J. J. Powell	Captain E. A. Packe, M.B.E., D.F.C.	Lieut. M. H. S. Last. Lieut. J. P. A. G. Graham. Lieut. the Hon. C. B. A. Bernard	Chalkley.	Dudley.

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SUMMARY OF FIRST BATTALION DIARY

January 4.—Regiment less " B " and " C " Companies entrained for Langenschwalbach from Cologne, arrived 3.35 a.m., 5th.

January 8.—Lieut.-General Sir J. P. de Cane, G.O.C.-in-C. Rhine Army, visited the Regiment in its new quarters.

January 13.—" B " and " C " Companies arrived at Petain Barracks, Wiesbaden.

January 21.—Lieut. J. L. Stebbing reposted to the Regiment on vacating Special Appointment at G.H.Q., B.A.O.R. Authority: W.O.L. P/14743/4 (A.G. 2 (o)) dated January 15, 1926.

January 25.—2nd Lieut. the Hon. C. B. A. Bernard proceeded to the Machine Gun School, Netheravon, to attend the 18th Qualifying Course commencing on February 3, 1927.

February 3.—" B " Company arrived from Wiesbaden, and took over " Craufurd " Barracks.

February 15.—Regiment included in congratulatory order to the Rhine Army by the Secretary of State for War, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the efficient manner in which the Cologne Zone was evacuated.

February 23.—Lieut. C. W. P. Branson and 24 other ranks took over the High Commissioner's Guard, Coblenz.

March 5.—2nd Lieuts. T. G. D. Rowley and G. W. Lathbury joined the Regiment on first appointment,

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and were posted to "B" and "D" Companies respectively.

March 15.—Lieut. S. C. P. Slattery proceeded to the Small Arms School, Hythe, to attend the L.Q.9 commencing on March 15.

March 16.—Lieut. A. B. Hamilton proceeded to the Small Arms School, Hythe, to attend the L.Q.9 commencing on March 15, 1926.

March 18.—Colonel-Commandant H. K. Bethell, C.B., C.B.E., C.V.O., D.S.O., Commanding 2nd Rhine Brigade, inspected the Regiment in barracks.

March 21.—2nd Lieut. E. G. C. Clarke attached from 4th Battalion (T.A.) whilst undergoing a course of instruction from March 22, 1926, to April 17, 1927.

March 29.—2nd Lieut. J. H. H. Coombes, Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, attached to the battalion whilst undergoing a course of instruction from March 28, 1926, to April 20, 1926.

April 6.—Regimental Drill Memorandum, revised March 1926, issued.

April 10.—"C" Company arrived from detachment at Wiesbaden.

April 12.—Information received that Captain G. F. Plowden, M.C., had qualified at the Senior Officers' Course, Small Arms School.

April 15.—Regiment placed Third in Rhine Army Cross-Country run. Lieut. J. P. A. G. Graham was first man home.

April 25.—Captain C. J. Eyston appointed Company Commander at the Boys' Technical School, Chepstow.

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April 27.—Major J. J. Powell terminated one year's course at the R.A.F. Staff College, and was reposted to the Regiment. Authority: W.O.L. P/1010/6 (A.G.2 (o)) dated March 25, 1926.

May 3.—Information received that 2nd Lieut. the Hon. C. B. A. Bernard had qualified at the Machine Gun School.

May 4.—Colonel H. A. Ferrer, C.B.E., Inspector of Remounts, inspected the Transport.

The Headquarter Wing was divided into "X" and "Y" Companies for Sports.

June 4.—The King's Birthday Parade, postponed from the 3rd, owing to rain, was carried out in Wiesbaden. The Regiment was represented by 5 officers and 142 other ranks under the command of Captain E. A. Packe, M.B.E., D.F.C.

June 5.—Lieut. the Hon. H. W. Amherst and 21 other ranks took over the High Commissioner's Guard, Coblenz.

June 7.—Lieut. L. R. Randall proceeded to the Depot for a tour of duty vice Lieut. R. H. Doyne, whose tour of duty expired on May 15, 1926.

June 11.—Lieut. J. L. Stebbing embarked for Iraq on being seconded to the Iraq Levies.

June 24.—Captain C. G. B. Stevens attached to G.H.Q. as A.D.C. (temporary) to the G.O.C.-in-C.

June 28.—Lieut. R. H. Doyne joined the battalion on completing a tour of duty at the Depot.

July 1.—Captain L. W. Giles, M.C., joined from 2nd Battalion on promotion, and was posted to "A" Company.

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July 2.—The Regiment was visited by Lieut.-General Sir David Campbell, K.C.B., Military Secretary.

Information received that Lieuts. S. C. P. Slattery, and Hamilton passed the Small Arms School.

July 22.—Lieut. S. C. P. Slattery promoted Captain. Was posted to the 52nd on promotion, but exchanged with Captain W. A. R. Ames. Authority: W.O.L. P/12068/2 (A.G. 2 (o)) dated September 7, 1926.

July 26.—2nd Lieut. P. C. Boileau, Oxford University O.T.C., attached to the Battalion whilst attending a course of instruction from July 26, 1926, to September 6, 1926.

September 1.—2nd Lieut. R. H. Cooke and 20 other ranks took over the Guard of the High Commissioner, Coblenz.

September 4.—The Regiment carried out a Test March of 15 miles, which was won by " A " Company.

September 6.—The Regiment marched to Bermbach (18½ miles) for Brigade Training.

September 11.—Bandmaster E. Smith appointed Quartermaster. Authority: W.O.L. P/35931/1 (A.G.2(o)) dated September 15, 1926.

September 21.—The Brigade Commander inspected the Regiment in Marching Order.

September 22.—The Regiment marched to Gorsroth for Inter-Brigade Training.

September 27.—The Regiment formed part of 1st (Rhine) Division for Army Manœuvres, which lasted till the 30th.

A march of 17 miles was carried out on the night 27-28. A special congratulatory order was received

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later from the Brigade Commander on the spirit and behaviour of the troops during manœuvres.

October 1.—2nd Lieuts. J. S. R. Edmunds and H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley joined from R.M.C., Sandhurst, and 2nd Lieut. P. C. Boileau from Oxford University O.T.C., were posted to the Regiment on first appointment, and were posted to "A" and "C" Companies respectively.

October 22.—Captain and Brevet-Major R. J. Brett, D.S.O., joined on vacating the appointment of Brigade Major, 10th Infantry Brigade, Shorncliffe.

October 30.—Captain and Brevet-Major R. J. Brett, D.S.O., took over the duties of Adjutant from Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., who had completed his tenure of the appointment.

November 3.—The Annual Inspection of the Regiment was carried out by the Brigade Commander.

November 11.—The Regiment sent a detachment of 4 officers, 179 other ranks, and the band, commanded by Major J. J. Powell, to take part in the Armistice parade at Wiesbaden.

November 22.—The Inspector of Educational Training, Colonel A. C. Johnston, D.S.O., M.C., visited the Regiment.

November 27.—Captain E. L. O. Baddeley joined for duty after a period of attachment to the R.A.F., and was posted to "B" Company.

December 12.—Indian Draft of 131 other ranks, and 13 waiting men proceeded to the Depot for furlough pending embarkation.

Colonel A. G. Bayley, C.B.E., D.S.O., proceeded on leave. Major J. J. Powell assumed temporary command of the Regiment.

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FIRST BATTALION LETTER, 1926

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The beginning of January found us all packing up and getting ready to say good-bye to Cologne. We cannot say that we did so with regret. Split up as we were in Zugweg and Ulrich Gasse barracks combined with long periods in Camp, the conditions were not calculated to facilitate the organisation of the various activities in which the battalion was always anxious to take part.

Moreover, although everything in Cologne was very well organised as regards facilities for sport and games, money being no object when the Army of Occupation first arrived in 1919, yet distances were very great and that combined with our being constantly split up, made us look forward to our move to the Wiesbaden area, where we fondly hoped that all these inconveniences would be things of the past.

As we had been somewhat unfortunate as regards our barracks in Cologne, we had been promised that we should be allotted a good station in the new area. After one or two changes, it was decided that we should go to Langenschwalbach about 10 miles N.W. of Wiesbaden, but in spite of all reconnaissances it was discovered that the place would not take the whole battalion. There was a nice new Sanatorium which had never been occupied which would take headquarters and two companies, but beyond that there was no other suitable accommodation. The buildings which had been occupied by the French were

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quite impossible, so as a start we were ordered to send Bailie's and Plowden's companies on detachment to Wiesbaden until such time as we could fix up other accommodation in Langenschwalbach.

The great move took place on January 4, Stevens in charge of an advanced party having gone on ahead to get the place ready for us. We arrived at daybreak on the 5th to find everything prepared for us, and a local hotel, the Victoria, requisitioned for use as the Officers' Mess.

It was a change. Instead of finding ourselves in the middle of a large industrial city, we were now isolated in a small German village miles away from anywhere, situated some thousand feet up in the Taunus Mountains. It was country indeed. But Langenschwalbach is a summer watering resort and in January, when all the hotels are closed, it did not look exactly an exciting neighbourhood. But everyone was full of hope. Surely in this country there would be ample opportunities for sport; also rumours of ski-ing, skating, and tobogganing all helped to make us contented with our lot.

Once settled in, we were of course visited by the powers that be. The Commander-in-Chief came, as did also the Brigade Commander, the Chief Engineer, the Chief Medical Officer, and a host of others, all intent on trying to find out how we could fit the battalion into a building that would only hold Headquarters and two companies. It was no use, it could not be done. There was, however, a partially completed building in the Sanatorium and the problem was: Would the Germans complete the building according to their original design which would enable

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the whole battalion to be accommodated. It was a question of money, and even now—December—the question is still being discussed and no decision arrived at.

The trying point, so far as that policy was concerned, was that the authorities were not prepared to spend money on our accommodation, so long as there was a chance of the Germans carrying out their scheme. That has been our great difficulty all along. But we had an excellent Engineer officer in Gates who was not afraid to accept responsibility, and who got busy with the local School House and Rath House, had them "gassed," repainted and made habitable for Bailie's Company who joined us on February 3.

Authority then came for money to be spent in making the attics in the Sanatorium into barrack rooms, this enabled Plowden's Company to come in from Wiesbaden, so that the whole battalion was concentrated by the middle of April. But the problem of accommodation is still with us—and is likely to continue so. It was only in November that we managed to get reasonable accommodation put up for our transport, which up till then had been housed a mile and a half away near the railway station in some wretched ruins. We are still fighting for dining halls, and live in hopes that before we leave something may be done in the matter. Even if we don't get the benefit of it, we hope they will be ready for our successors.

Now while this question of accommodation was being fought, we had to find out the training possibilities of the neighbourhood. In this, however, we were not rushed, as our first consideration was one of

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rifle ranges. There was an excellent range built by the French about three miles away, but unfortunately it was laid out for metres, and only had a maximum range of 400 metres. We had to increase it from six to eight targets, destroy all the French firing points and make fresh ones to suit our present Weapon Training Course. This kept every man in the battalion busy right up to the time shooting commenced.

But as regards training areas we very soon discovered that the possibilities were nil. The country is extremely hilly, mostly wooded, and any open space is under cultivation and cannot be crossed until after the crops have been cut. About ten miles away there is a government plot of rough country just large enough for one company to train on. This however has to meet the requirements of the whole Brigade. So companies are hard put to it to carry out their preliminary training, being for the most part confined to the roads. For this reason Company Training was deferred until after Musketry had been completed, but even then they were considerably handicapped by the crops being only partly gathered in. It was really not until brigade training started, that the country was in a fit state to carry out training. Even then there were large tracts of country devoted to roots which were placed " out of bounds " to our troops. But in September, when the crops have been cut, the country is an excellent one for the training of a Brigade, as the country, with its large features and extensive woods, affords great opportunities for the handling of such a force. But for the handling of smaller units the features are too big and tend to make the operations unreal and very wearisome.

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While during the summer months most of our time was taken up with Musketry, as will be seen from various articles sent in to the CHRONICLE, there was time for tennis, cricket, racing, golf and dancing. There is also polo at Wiesbaden, but as that takes place some six miles the far side of Wiesbaden, up-to-date we have not competed.

During the summer months at Langenschwalbach there is plenty going on to keep everyone busy, both officers and men. It is during the winter months that conditions become difficult, especially as regards games for the men. One is entirely dependent on one's own amusements. We have only one small football ground on which we have already spent between two and three hundred pounds to make it playable. Even now it has been described as "a morass after rain, and a cement-like agglomeration of hard boulders during frost." Under such conditions it is hardly to be wondered at if the battalion are somewhat handicapped when we come to competing with other regiments more favourably placed.

But it is hoped that this will be our last winter in the Taunus Mountains. If the Rhine reliefs are carried out according to programme, by the time this letter appears in print, our future destination ought to have appeared in Army Orders. Let us hope it will be some good station in England.

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RECORDS OF THE SECOND BATTALION
1926

ROLL OF OFFICERS—DECEMBER 31, 1926

Lieut.-Colonel.

W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Majors.

J. L. Portal, D.S.O.

Captains.

K. Horan.
W. L. Barnard.
P. Booth[1].
D. C. Colvill, M.C.
T. E. Whithington, A.F.C.
C. B. Crawford.
H. S. Eagle.
E. A. Smith, M.C.
W. A. R. Ames.

Lieutenants.

K. S. Wootten[2].
J. Thorne.
J. E. D. Kilburn.
M. T. Stephens.
G. G. Hughes.
K. Bayley[1].
W. T. Yeoman.
W. G. Clarke.
J. A. Theobalds[1].
R. T. Conant.
G. C. H. Wykeham
P. F. Metcalfe.

2nd Lieutenants.

C. L. C. Ward.
J. D. Palmer[2].
F. T. Horan.
L. L. Falkiner.

[1]Depôt, Oxford. [2]Leave, England.

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ATTACHED.

2nd Lieut. A. J. W. Macleod, Indian Army Unattached List.
2nd Lieut. A. R. E. Walker, Indian Army Unattached List.
2nd Lieut. J. W. H. K. Greenway, Indian Army Unattached List.
2nd Lieut. J. W. S. Burton, Indian Army Unattached List.

Adjutant.

Lieut. E. C. Richards.

Quartermaster.

Lieut. F. Clare, D.C.M.

Regimental Sergeant Major.

E. A. Smith, D.C.M., M.M.

Bandmaster.

H. Pipe (A.R.C.M.)

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant.

Sergeant H. Hotine.

Orderly Room Sergeant.

Colour Sergeant G. F. Giles.

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COMPANIES OF THE SECOND BATTALION—DECEMBER 31, 1926.

Coy.	Commanders.	Company Officers.	C.S.M.	C.Q.M.S.
A.	Captain K. Horan.	Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C. Lieut. K. Wootten. 2nd Lieut. K. Horan. 2nd Lieut. L. L. Falkiner.	H. Lay, D.C.M., M.M.	H. North, M.M.
B.	Captain T. E. Withington, A.F.C.	Captain H. S. Eagle. Lieut. J. Thorne. 2nd Lieut. C. L. C. Ward. 2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer. 2nd Lieuts. A. J. W. Macleod and J. W. H. K. Greenway (I.A.U.L.) attached.	C. Bailey, D.C.M.	P. Barlow, M.M.
C.	Captain C. B. Crawford	Lieut. W. T. Yeoman Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn. Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham. 2nd Lieut. A. J. W. S. Burton (I.A.U.L.) attached.	J. Watts, D.C.M.	F. Soanes.
D.	Captain W. L. Barnard.	Captain W. A. R. Ames. Lieut. W. G. Clarke. Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe. 2nd Lieut. A. R. E. Walker (I.A.U.L.) attached.	W. Older, M.M.	J. Woodford, M.M.
H.Q. Wing.	Captain E. A. Smith, M.C.	Lieut. M. T. Stephens. Lieut. R. T. Conant. Lieut. G. G. Hughes.	——	H. J. Benford, M.M.

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STATE OF THE 2ND BATTALION OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY.

DECEMBER 31, 1926

Station, etc.	Officers	Warrant Officers, Class I.	Warrant Officers, Class II.	Colour Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Buglers.	Privates.	Total of all Ranks.
At Dehra Dun	26	2	4	6	25	37	16	694	810
On Command	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Leave	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	4
On Detachment	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	42	45
En Route to U.K. ..	1	—	1	—	2	2	—	17	23
Attached 10th/17th Dogra Regiment	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	30	2	6	6	28	41	16	761	890

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SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY

January 6.—Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., and a draft of 59 other ranks, arrived from the 1st Battalion.

January 9.—The District Commander inspected the Draft.

January 21.—Lieut. K. S. Wootten rejoined the Regiment on vacating the appointment of Station Staff Officer, Razmak.

January 24.—The Razmak Column composed as follows marched to Razani (16 miles). [The Regiment piquetted the road.] Headquarters 7th Indian Infantry Brigade, 7th Indian Infantry Brigade and R.A. Signals Sections. Signal Sections, Wireless Section, 20th Indian Pack Brigade R.A., 14th Field Company Sappers and Miners, 52nd Light Infantry, 3/11th Sikhs, 2/1st Gurkha Rifles, 1/2nd Gurkha Rifles, 3/2nd Bombay Pioneers, Brigade Ammunition Column, 9th I.B.T. Company, 17th D.T. Train and Field Ambulance.

January 25.—The Column marched to Damdil [Old Camp] (distance 15 miles), "C" and "D" Companies formed the rearguard.

January 26.—The Column marched to Miranshah (distance 16 miles).

January 27-30.—The Column halted at Miranshah to collect supplies.

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January 31.—The Column marched to Mohammed Khel (distance 14½ miles). The Regiment piquetted the last six miles.

February 1.—The Column halted at Mohammed Khel.

February 2.—The Column (less 52nd and 2/1st Gurkhas) marched to Datta Khel *via* the Spinchilla Narai. The Regiment and the 2/1st Gurkha Rifles escorted the Transport by road (distance 10 miles).

February 3.—The Column halted at Datta Khel.

February 4.—The Column marched back to Mohammed Khel *via* the Spinchilla Narai (distance 7½ miles). The Regiment piquetted the first 6 miles.

February 5.—The Column halted at Mohammed Khel. The Brigade Ammunition Column, Transport and Train returned to Miramshah escorted by the 3/2nd Bombay Pioneers.

February 6.—All supplies and baggage were loaded into lorries and sent to Razani by road (distance 45 miles). The Column marched back to Razani *via* the Tut Narai and Loargai Narai, the latter being under snow (distance 16 miles).

February 7.—Two battalions were sent ahead to Razmak Narai in lorries to clear the road which was blocked by snow.

The Regiment, 1/2nd Gurkha Rifles and 10th Pack Battery R.A., returned to Razmak with Pack Mule Transport.

February 8.—The remainder of the Column returned to Razmak. Major L. Tunnard assumed command of the Regiment. Information received that Lieut.

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M. T. Stephens qualified as an instructor at the Army Signal School, Poona.

February 10.—Information received that Captain C. B. Crawford qualified at the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi. Information received that Lieut. R. H. Coad, M.M., is seconded from Regimental duty whilst employed as Adjutant and Quartermaster, Army School of Education, Belgaum.

February 22.—" C " Company carried out Field Firing.

February 23.—" D " Company carried out Field Firing.

February 24.—M.G. Platoon carried out Field Firing.

February 26.—2nd Lieut. G. G. Hughes and G. C. H. Wykeham to be Lieutenants (to date from January 31).

March 1.—Final of Lewis Gun Section Competition held. Won by " C " Company.

March 11.—Annual Inspection by Brigade Commander took place.

March 12.—Captain C. B. Crawford took over Command of " B " Company.

Heavy baggage despatched to Bannu.

March 13.—One N.C.O. and 3 men proceeded to Bannu with remainder of heavy baggage.

March 14.—Captain W. L. Barnard joined after a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot, and took over command and payment of " D " Company.

March 18.—Lieut. F. Clare, D.C.M., proceeded to Chakrata.

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March 19.—Information received that 2nd Lieuts. A. J. W. Macleod and A. R. E. Walker, I.A.U.L., have been posted to the Regiment for one year's attachment, and will join at Chakrata.

Arrival of Advance Party of 2nd Bn. The Sherwood Foresters.

March 22.—More heavy baggage despatched to Bannu under escort.

Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O., resumed Command of the Regiment.

March 23.—2nd Bn. The Sherwood Foresters marched in and took over the lines. The Regiment moved into tents.

March 24.—Camp Piquets and Perimeter Posts handed over to 2nd Bn. The Sherwood Foresters.

March 25.—Regiment marched to Razani.

March 26.—Regiment marched to Damdil.

March 27.—Regiment marched to Idak. Heavy rain and hail from Thal fort. Distance 19 miles.

March 28.—Regiment remained at Idak.

March 29.—Regiment marched to Saidgi.

March 30.—Regiment marched to Bannu.

March 31.—Regiment remained at Bannu.

April 1.—1st Echelon consisting of "A" and "B" Companies Machine Gun Platoon, Indian Platoon, Band, 20 Buglers and some followers entrained in two trains and proceeded by narrow-gauge railway to Kalabagh Ghat, crossing the ferry and reaching Mari Indus Camp about 5 p.m.

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April 2.—1st Echelon remained at Mari Indus. 2nd Echelon (remainder of Regiment) remained at Bannu.

April 3.—2nd Echelon left Bannu for Mari Indus in two trains as before.

April 4.—1st Echelon left Mari Indus by train at 10 p.m. for Dehra Dun.

April 5.—2nd Echelon left Mari Indus from Dehra Dun.

April 6.—1st Echelon arrived at Dehra Dun.

April 7.—1st Echelon marched to Jumnipore.
2nd Echelon arrived at Dehra Dun.

April 8.—1st Echelon marched to Kalsi.
2nd Echelon marched to Jumnipore.
Transport largely bullock carts, which caused much difficulty.

April 9.—1st Echelon marched to Saiah.
2nd Echelon marched to Kalsi.

April 10.—1st Echelon marched to Chakrata.
2nd Echelon marched to Saiah.
2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer joined the Regiment on first appointment and was posted to " B " Company. 2nd Lieuts. A. J. W. Macleod and A. R. E. Walker, I.A.U.L., reported their arrival and were posted to " A " and " D " Companies respectively.

April 16.—" A " and " C " Companies were struck off duties until further notice for the purpose of carrying out individual training and the Annual Musketry Course.

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April 18.—Information received that Captain L. W. Giles, M.C., has been posted to the Home Establishment on promotion.

May 11.—The Regiment was inspected by the Brigade Commander.

May 13.—Inspection of the Barracks by the Brigade Commander.

May 19.—Major L. Tunnard reported for duty.

May 20.—Following inter-Company transfer of officers took place :—

Lieut. M. T. Stephens, " B " to " A."

2nd Lieut. A. J. W. Macleod, " A " to " B."

May 26.—Information received that Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., has been seconded with effect from May 8, 1926.

June 5.—King's Birthday Parade.

June 16.—Inspection by G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command.

June 18.—Waterloo Sports held.

June 24.—Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham took over Command and payment of " C " Company.

June 25.—Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., proceeded to Dehra Dun to take over the duties of officiating Staff Captain, 17th I.I. Brigade.

July 25.—Lieut. M. T. Stephens proceeded on a Course at the Army School of Education, Belgaum.

July 28.—Information received of death of Major L. Tunnard at sea on July 20.

August 5.—Captain C. B. Crawford took over command and payment of " C " Company.

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August 10.—2nd Lieut. K. Bayley proceeded to Jullunder on 6 months' attachment to the British Infantry Training Company of the 10/17th Dogra Regiment.

August 11.—Extract from *London Gazette* dated Tuesday, July 20, 1926: "Lieutenant to be Captain W. A. R. Ames (April 28)."

August 19.—Colonel Commandant Macnamara, Commanding the U.P. District inspected the Regiment.

August 27.—Information received that Lieut. J. A. Theobalds would embark for the United Kingdom on H.M.T. *Nevasa* sailing from Bombay on October 12.

September 7.—2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer transferred to the British Station Hospital, Naini Tal.

September 13.—"B" and "D" Companies and a party of casuals began their annual musketry course and individual training.

September 24.—Information received that 2nd Lieut. K. Bayley would embark for the United Kingdom on H.M.T. *Nevasa* sailing from Bombay on October 12.

September 27.—Information received that 2nd Lieut. J. W. H. K. Greenway, I.A.U.L., would be attached to the Regiment.

September 28.—The following inter-Company transfers took place:—

Captain W. A. R. Ames, "A" to "D" Company.

Lieut. M. T. Stephens, from "A" to "H.Q." Wing.

Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., from "C" to "A" Company.

2nd Lieut. F. T. Horan, from "C" to "A" Company.

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September 29.—The following extract is taken from the *London Gazette* of September 4, 1926 :—

2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants : K. Bayley (August 27th) ; P. F. Metcalfe (August 30).

October 2.—Lieut.-Colonel Freestun and Lieutenant Clare proceeded to Gangora to inspect training camp returning the same day.

October 6.—Lieut. J. A. Theobalds, 2 Sergeants, 1 Corporal and 5 privates left to embark on H.M.T. *Nevassa* for the United Kingdom.

Captain K. Horan assumed command of the Regiment vice Lieut.-Colonel Freestun, who was placed on the sick list.

October 7.—Lieut. Bayley proceeded to Bombay to embark for the United Kingdom.

Information received that 2nd Lieut. G. W. S. Burton, I.A.U.L., has been posted to the Regiment for one year's attachment.

October 13.—Information received that 2nd Lieut. L. L. Falkiner has been posted to the Regiment on first appointment to fill an existing vacancy.

October 15.—Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O., resumed Command of the Regiment.

October 20.—Information received that Lieut. M. T. Stephens qualified at the 3rd Course of 1926 at the Army School of Education, Belgaum.

October 28.—Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham and 33 other ranks proceeded to Dehra Dun to re-inforce the advanced party of 17 other ranks previously despatched.

Captain K. Horan took over command of the Regiment with effect from to-day.

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October 30.—A draft of 2 Corporals and 12 privates left Chakrata proceeding to the United Kingdom for discharge and transfer to the Army Reserve.

The following officers of the Indian Army Unattached List reported their arrival for one year's attachment and were posted to Companies as under :—

2nd Lieut. G. W. S. Burton, " C " Company ; 2nd Lieut. J. W. H. K. Greenway, " B " Company ; Lieut.-Colonel W. H. M. Freestun, C.M.G., D.S.O., resumed command of the Regiment.

November 1.—3rd Half yearly examination for N.C.O.'s promotion started.

Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn reported his arrival for duty after a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot.

November 2.—Lieut. W. G. Clarke reported his arrival for duty after relinquishing his appointment as A.D.C. to the G.O.C. Poona District.

November 7.—Lieut. W. G. Clarke proceeded to Jullunder for attachment to the British Infantry Training Company, 10/17th Dogra Regiment.

The Machine Gun Platoon left Chakrata for Dehra Dun to fire the annual Machine Gun Classification.

November 11.—Nonnebosschen Day.

" B " Company won Athletic Shield.

November 14.—1st Echelon of the Regiment consisting of " C " and " D " Companies, the Band and the Indian Platoon left Chakrata and marched to Saiah under the command of Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O. Captain W. A. R. Ames proceeded to Dhanauri practice camp for attachment to the Royal Artillery.

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November 15.—1st Echelon marched from Saiah to Kalsi.

November 16.—1st Echelon marched from Kalsi to Jumnipore.

November 17.—2nd Echelon of the Regiment consisting of "A" and "B" Companies, the Buglers and the remainder of the Headquarter Wing under the Command of Captain K. Horan, left Chakrata and marched to Saiah.

1st Echelon marched in to Gangora Camp from Jumnipore.

Captain H. S. Eagle returned from 8 months' leave in the United Kingdom.

November 18.—Information received that Lieut. G. G. Hughes qualified at the 3rd Qualifying Course at the Machine Gun School, Ahmednagar.

2nd Echelon marched from Saiah to Kalsi.

November 19.—2nd Echelon marched from Kalsi to Jumnipore. A draft consisting of 2 corporals and 7 privates left Chakrata to proceed to the United Kingdom.

November 20.—2nd Echelon marched from Jumnipore and arrived at Gangora.

November 22.—Company and Battalion Training started.

November 23.—Lieut. G. G. Hughes was transferred to the Headquarter Wing with effect from to-day.

November 26.—The Machine Gun Platoon left Dehra Dun to proceed to Tughluqabad for a Machine Gun Concentration.

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December 7.—2nd Lieut. L. L. Falkiner joined on first appointment and was posted to " A " Company.

Captain K. Horan proceeded to Dhanauri for a week's attachment at the Artillery Practice Camp. Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., returned from a Course at the Small Arms School, Pachmahri.

December 8.—Information received that 2nd Lieut. J. D. Palmer was granted 6 months' leave to the United Kingdom on Medical Certificate.

December 20.—Lieut. J. Thorne reported his arrival from the United Kingdom after a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot and was posted to " B " Company.

December 27.—A draft of 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 14 other ranks left for the United Kingdom.

December 28.—Lieut. J. Thorne left the Regiment to proceed to Jullundur for attachment to the British Infantry Training Company, 10/17th Dogra Regiment, Jullundur.

December 30.—Lieut. W. G. Clarke returned from attachment to the British Infantry Training Company, 10/17th Dogra Regiment, Jullundur.

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SECOND BATTALION LETTER, 1926

DEAR EDITOR,

This chronicle of our doings for 1926, although somewhat monotonous in itself, can, at least, hardly be accused of lacking in variety.

Up to this point in our Indian tour, our moves have largely consisted of a triumphal [*sic*] progress from one bleak and unpleasant hill-top to another bleaker (and more unpleasant) hill-top and back again.

So it has been with us in the present year of Grace. The New Year saw us still in Razmak, where the combination of an unusually mild winter and something more substantial than tents to live in was much welcomed.

The operations of the Razmak column in January have already been fully described elsewhere. So, having taken no personal part in it, we (the plural is editorial and not Regimental) will merely dismiss it by saying that it made a very suitable finish to our tour of duty on the Frontier.

Returning to Razmak on February 8, after a heavy fall of snow, the remaining six weeks were spent in field firing and packing and despatching mountains of baggage to Bannu by lorry. During most of this period the Sherwood Foresters who were relieving us in Razmak had been " marching in relief o'er India's sunny plains " with a vengeance, having had to foot it from Rawalpindi, a march which took them some three weeks by road. They were observed by some of our officers who went to Kohat to play rugger, marching

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through torrents of rain, so that particular line of Kipling hardly applies.

To cut a long story short, we had the inestimable pleasure of playing them into Razmak No. 1 Gate on March 23, where they took over the lines which we had vacated, moving into tents for this purpose.

From what we saw of him the Derbyshire Ram did not take kindly to Razmak or the local inhabitants.

Having handed over camp piquets and perimeter posts with a sigh of relief, we marched out to the tune of bands, drums, pipes, " Sackbuts, psalteries, and all other kinds of musick." The five days to Bannu were comparatively uneventful. The worst march was between Damdil and Idak some 19 miles, which were not rendered shorter by the short cuts by which certain officers elected to lead the Regiment and by the hail storm which burst upon us near Thal Fort.

The Regiment was marching in shirt sleeves, and hail stones as big as cob-nuts falling on bare arms and unprotected shoulders caused enough profanity to melt the hail as it fell. As the hail was afterwards followed by a roaring deluge of cold rain, we were not sorry to get into Idak Camp.

Having halted there over Sunday, we resumed our march and now having left the hills behind us, we found it exceedingly warm. At Saidgi there was a memorable " fishing " expedition to the Tochi inaugurated by the Colonel, who led a party of desperadoes armed with shovels to dam the pools (shades of Izaak Walton !). On arrival at Bannu we took up our dwelling in the rest camp and after wrestling not like Jacob, with the angel, but with an unusually

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somnolent and lethargic Brigade Staff, we departed piecemeal in two toy trains to Mari Indus.

At Mari Indus we again halted to collect ourselves and our kit, and after a suitable interval we again moved in two trains, this time of the normal broad gauge variety, on two successive days. After two days in the train we arrived dirty and dishevelled at Dehra Dun, where the unfortunate Clare had to contend with an army of mutinous bullock cart drivers.

We left Dehra Dun again in two echelons on two successive mornings. To see the green trees and tea gardens, the canals, rivers and jungle of the Doon was indeed a pleasure to the eye after Waziristan, " the abomination of desolation " so aptly described by St. John, who would undoubtedly have burst an etymological blood vessel if he had served there, which unfortunately Holy Writ gives us no reason to believe.

The march of both echelons to Chakrata, a four days' journey, was lightened by several amusing incidents, the only one of which we will mention was the shooting party at Kalsi led by that urbane officer Crawford, who enjoined that budding Nimrod, Ward, to stand in a certain spot while a patch of jungle reputed to contain jungle fowl in abundance, was beaten towards him (Ward). On being asked whether he had seen any jungle fowl, Ward replied: " No, but a lot of barn door fowls ran past me."

No doubt the gallant Captain's honeyed phrases were sufficiently crushing. We were not there to hear.

Our arrival at Chakrata was not as musical as our departure from Razmak.

In fact, it could only be described as an anti-climax and even more bathos was added by the remarks of

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the Orderly Corporals when they realised how much walking they had to do in the course of the day.

Roughly the two halves of the Regiment are situated on two " fromeachothermostdistanthilltops " to misquote Mark Twain. We have experienced the same disadvantages before " not once nor twice in our rough island story," but this unfortunately does not make it any better.

We had a good deal of work before the rains started, largely musketry and individual training, which saved us from boredom, but we little realised what was before us.

After the Waterloo Sports the rains broke; not English rain of a few days' duration, but day after day, week after week, even month after month, of soaking rain and swirling mists which made anything beyond work in barrack rooms, on sand tables and in the gymnasium a rank impossibility.

Our one and only flat piece of ground where games can be played, was a morass.

From early July to the middle of September, there was hardly a gleam of sun.

There were several landslips which blocked the road to Dehra Dun, but these happily did not prevent us from getting our mails. For recreation we turned to Company dances and smoking concerts and theatricals. Two very successful shows, one by the officers and one by other ranks, were staged between August and October.

In late September, the floods abated and there came a time of perfect weather—cold crisp days, a warm sun and bitterly cold nights.

We watched the snows creeping closer down the

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Himalayas and looked forward to the move to Dehra Dun.

On November 14 and 17 we moved in two parties, arriving in Dehra on the 17th and 20th respectively.

At Gangora, we established ourselves in our winter standing camp comfortable enough as camps go, excepting such little annoyances as white ants, who devour tents with relish and confidential documents with avidity, not slowly but in one night. There is a great scarcity of good training grounds near Dehra Dun which taken with the entire absence of the latter up at Chakrata has seriously hampered our training.

After a quiet and well behaved Christmas, we set ourselves to get ready for manœuvres.

This closes the chronicle of our activities during 1926. It is no exaggeration to say that we were bitterly disappointed at our present station and the fact that it is rumoured strongly that we may remain at Chakrata for four years does not make us look forward to our next three periods of imprisonment in the hills with any great pleasure.

Yours,

52ND.

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RECORDS OF THE DEPOT, 1926

Roll of Officers—December 31, 1926

Major Commanding.

A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O.

Captains.

J. W. Meade.
P. Booth.

Lieutenants.

L. R. Randall.
K. Bayley.

Acting Adjutant.

Lieutenant J. A. Theobalds.

Quartermaster.

Captain A. E. Mason.

Strength of Depot—December 31, 1926

Officers	7
Warrant Officers	3
Sergeants	10
Corporals	12
Buglers	3
Privates	154
Total	189

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Increase and Decrease
(January 1 to December 31, 1926)

Increase.

Joined as recruits and re-enlisted men	215
Joined from desertion	nil
From 1st Battalion	33
From 2nd Battalion	47
Transferred from other Corps	1
Total	296

Decrease.

To 1st Battalion	198
Discharged	49
Deserted	4
Transferred to other Corps	3
Died	nil
Transferred to Army Reserve	30
Total	284

Awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medals During 1926

5373130 C.S.M. Edwards, F.
5375151 Sgt. Hames, G.
5373135 Cpl. Finch, W.
5374638 Pte. Twynham, S.
6905141 Sgt. Enness, R.
5373150 Sgt. Young, W.
5373628 Pte. Cooper, J.

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DEPOT LETTER

THE New Year found our two Light Division friends, Lieut.-Colonel Crosbie, of the Rifle Brigade, and Lieut.-Colonel Wynter of the Chestnut Troop, with us again spending their leave hunting from here.

Booth arrived at the end of 1925 to take Barnard's place as Administrative Officer and we bade a sad farewell to the latter in February, when he sailed to join the 52nd. He will be a great loss to both the cricket team and the concert party.

Several all ranks dances and concerts were held early in the year, which were a great success, and in the middle of January we sent a boxing team to Reading to compete against the Depot of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, who soundly defeated us.

In February, the August platoon left for the Rhine conducted by Sanderson, and the Sergeant-Major followed a month later by the September platoon.

On March 18, the South Oxfordshire Hunt Point-to-Point Races were held, and with them, as usual, the Regimental Race. The Annual Team Race, 43rd Light Infantry *v.* the 2nd Bn. the Rifle Brigade, was held at the Old Berks Hunt Meeting at Faringdon, on April 1. No doubt both these important events are referred to elsewhere in this volume.

On May 3, the General Strike began. Reserves of rations and innumerable instructions had been arriving for some time, and we were therefore not unprepared when the time came. Except that leave was stopped and troops were confined to barracks, most of the

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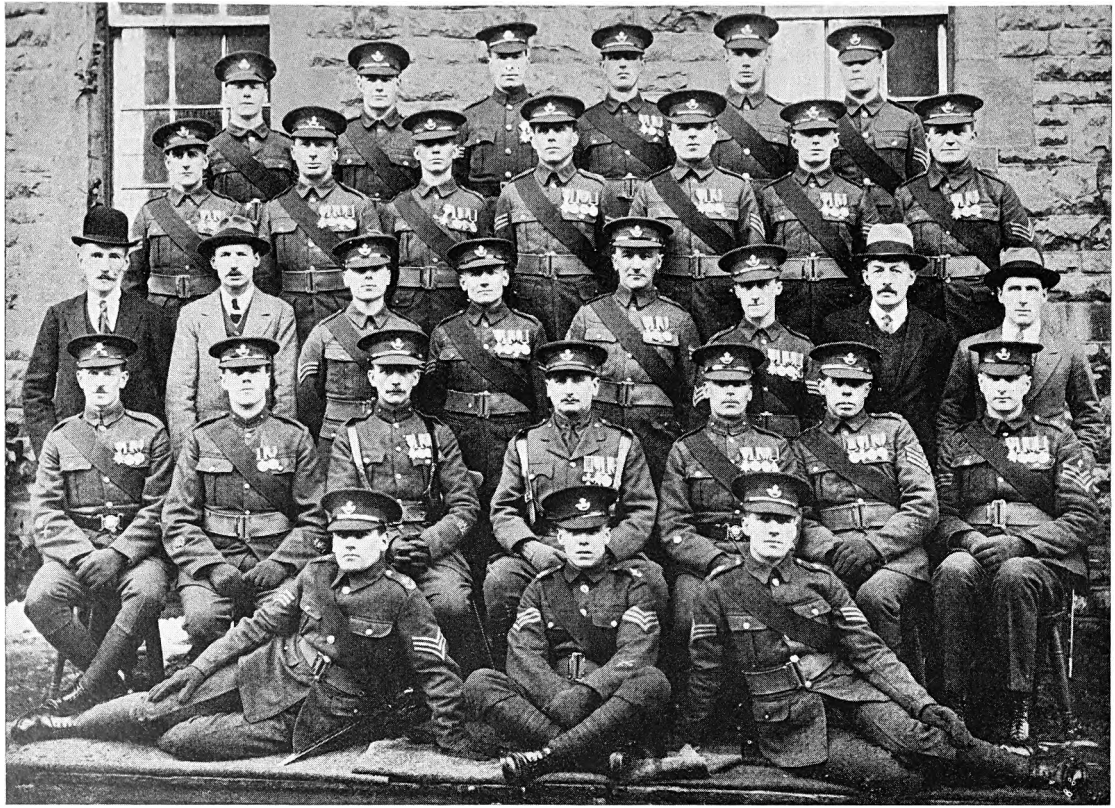

THE SERGEANTS' MESS. DEPÔT, 1926.

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time, we took no active part, but were prepared to move to a number of places at very short notice. The Quartermaster had a very busy time providing rations and accommodation for several parties of troops who passed through here on their way to their strike stations.

On Empire Day a platoon of recruits gave a physical training display at a British Legion fête, which was much appreciated. On May 29, the October Platoon joined the Regiment.

On June 7, Major-General Pitman, commanding the South Midland Area, inspected the Depot at Training.

On June 8, Randall arrived from the 43rd to take Doyne's place. The latter will be another heavy loss to the cricket team, while it will be almost impossible to find a substitute for him " across the footlights."

June is always a very busy month socially, and this year was no exception as the Regimental Dinner, the Cricket Week, and the Depot Officers Dance were held as usual.

On the 28th, Sanderson gave a garden party to the married families and the presence of the 43rd Band contributed greatly to the success of the afternoon.

The January platoon joined the 43rd in the middle of July and on the 13th, Major-General Pitman presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to three of the Depot Staff.

Things now really started moving towards the production of the Tattoo, probably the biggest event of its kind ever undertaken by the Regiment. A full account of it has been written elsewhere and it will suffice to say here that it was held from August 23 to

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28 and, thanks to the weather, was an unqualified success from start to finish, and has benefited the Regimental charities enormously.

On September 6 Mason arrived from the 43rd to take over the duties of Quartermaster from Roberts. We are fortunate in not having to say "good-bye" to Roberts, as he has taken over the Regimental Association, and still works in the Depot. Kilburn and his wife sailed for India in October, followed a month later by Thorne and his family. Theobalds and Bayley arrived from the 52nd at the beginning of November to take their places. They are both much missed and the Cadre Officer will have great difficulty in living up to Thorne's reputation of providing every sort of explosion to order.

Doyne reappeared for about six weeks at the end of the year to help make good a temporary shortage of officers, but finally left us just before Christmas.

On September 24, Sanderson and Roberts attended the unveiling of the 14th Division Memorial in Belgium.

On November 10, Baddeley joined the Depot for a short attachment after his secondment to the Air Force, before going on to the 43rd.

On Armistice Day, a strong parade and service was held at the Regimental War Memorial, while Doyne and the Cadre Platoon represented the Regiment at the City Memorial Service.

Meade went up to London to represent the Colonel of the Regiment at the laying up of the old colours of the 1st Battalion the Royal Fusiliers.

The band of the Gordon Highlanders were attached

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to us for a short time at the end of the year, and very kindly gave a concert which we much enjoyed.

On December 13 a draft of 140 other ranks arrived from the 43rd to be fitted out for India, and were sent off on embarkation furlough almost at once.

Very few men have come back from the 52nd so far, but there are a large number due this trooping season.

On December 22 the Depot closed down for the Christmas holidays, and reopened in time for the Married Families Christmas Party, which was held on December 29, and went off with its usual swing.

A number of Territorial and O.T.C. Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers have been attached here during the year, and we hope they have benefited by the instruction and enjoyed themselves during their stay.

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THE REGIMENTAL DINNER, 1926

List of Officers who attended the Annual Regimental Dinner held at the Trocadero Restaurant, June 18, 1926:

Captain C. W. H. Bailie.
Major R. Brett, D.S.O.
Lieut.-Colonel G. Blewitt, D.S.O., M.C.
Colonel F. T. H. Bernard.
Colonel A. G. Bayley, C.B.E., D.S.O.
Air Vice-Marshal H. R. M. Brooke-Popham, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C.
Lieut. C. W. P. Branson.
Lieut. the Hon. C. B. A. Bernard.
Group Captain U. J. D. Bourke, C.M.G.
Lieut. E. K. Blyth.
Lieut.-Colonel A. J. N. Bartlett, D.S.O.
Lieut.-Colonel C. S. Baines, D.S.O.
Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Ballard.
Captain H. T. Birch-Reynardson.
Captain P. Booth.
Captain E. T. C. Bower.
Colonel P. T. Clark.
Colonel E. R. Clayton, C.M.G., D.S.O.
Major-General H. R. Davies, C.B.
Brig.-General the Hon. A. E. Dalzell, C.B.
Lieut. R. H. Doyne.
Brig.-General A. J. F. Eden, C.M.G., D.S.O.
Captain H. S. Eagle.
Colonel J. F. C. Fuller, D.S.O., C.B.E.
Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Feilden, C.B.E.
Lieut. J. P. A. G. Graham.
Captain L. W. Giles, M.C.
F. C. Holland, Esq.
Captain E. Holt, M.C.
Brig.-General C. G. Higgins, C.M.G., D.S.O.

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Major C. F. Henley.
Captain C. R. Horley, M.C.
Lieut. K. S. Jefferson.
Lieut. J. E. Dunbar Kilburn.
Lieut.-Colonel R. D. Keyworth.
F. C. I. A. Lowndes, Esq., M.C.
Lieut. M. H. S. Last.
Colonel E. A. E. Lethbridge, C.M.G., D.S.O.
Captain J. W. Meade.
Captain G. Naylor, M.C.
Lieut.-Colonel R. C. R. Owen, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Captain E. A. Packe, M.B.E., D.F.C.
Lieut.-Colonel L. H. R. Pope-Hennessy, D.S.O.
Lieut.-Colonel B. C. T. Paget, D.S.O., M.C.
Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Ruck-Keene, D.S.O., O.B.E.
Lieut. L. R. Randall.
Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C.
Major L. F. Scott.
Major A. V. Spencer, D.S.O.
Lieut. A. B. Slessor.
Colonel F. H. Stapleton, C.M.G.
Colonel E. A. Stanton, C.M.G.
Major A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O.
Lieut. J. Thorne.
Captain E. H. Whitfeld, M.C.
Lieut. M. M. Alston Roberts West.
Captain T. E. Withington, A.F.C.
Lieut.-Colonel J. T. Weatherby, D.S.O.

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WEAPON TRAINING, 1926

First Battalion

The Annual Range Courses were not fired till later in the summer than was hoped for, on account of the alterations that had to be carried out to the Range. As is the usual practice the Regiment fired the Course in two halves, two companies and two groups of Headquarter Wing firing together. The course was no doubt stiffer than last year, but nevertheless the results comparatively speaking were good. The fact that the ranges are three miles from Regimental Headquarters militate against very high scores.

The results were :—

(Rifle H.P.S. — 140. L.G., H.P.S. — 217.)

Rifle average—93.24.
Lewis Gun average—150.09.
Revolver.—100 all ranks were classified.

The order of merit (combined average) of the companies was as follows :

" A " Company	113.72	Rifle and Lewis Gun.
" B " Company	106.31	" "
" C " Company	110.74	" "
" D " Company	108.33	" "
" H.Q." Wing	93.28	Rifle only.

Company Shots

" H.Q." Wing.—No. 5377402 L.-Cpl. Pennington. Score 132 (rifle only).

" A " Coy.—No. 5377268 L.-Cpl. S. Brooks : Rifle 136 Lewis Gun, 196 = 332.

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"B" Coy.—No. 5242821 Sgt. F. Oram: Rifle 117; Lewis Gun 185 = 302.

"C" Coy.—No. 5374741 Cpl. F. Bradley: Rifle 126; Lewis Gun 179 = 305.

"D" Coy.—No. 5373177 C.Q.M.S. W. Bull, M.M.: Rifle 136; Lewis Gun 168 = 304.

Best Shots of W.O.'s and Sergeants

"C" Coy.—No. 5376955 Sgt. C. Cooper: Rifle 126; Lewis Gun 190 = 316.

Best Shots of Corporals and Privates

"A" Coy.—No. 5377268 L.-Cpl. S. Brooks: Rifle 136; Lewis Gun 196 = 332.

Classification and Percentages

Rifle Table "L."	Number.	Percentage.
Marksmen	73	40.10
1st Class Shots	57	31.32
2nd Class Shots	49	26.93
3rd Class Shots	3	1.65
Lewis Gun. Table "L"		
1st Class Gunners	94	81.7
2nd Class Gunners	16	13.9
Unqualified	5	4.4

Rhine Army Small Arms Meeting

The meeting was held on the Sonnenberg Ranges on August 16, 17, 18, 19, during what is euphemistically called by anyone but the Regimental Officer the Rhine Army Break Period. As before the unit representatives had really no say in the programme, which was in many respects another phase of collective training with entrance fees and prizes. The only point gained by the Hampden-like stand of regimental representatives was that gas masks were not part of the conditions of any practice.

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The ranges were utterly strange to all our teams, and it does them credit that they did so well, as the atmospheric difficulties were acute.

In the Platoon Tactical Competition we were unfortunate to be drawn first to compete as the scheme and conditions varied greatly throughout the day. The Regiment was fifth in the Rhine Army Aggregate but took second place in the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants Inter-Regimental Match for which bronze medals were awarded.

In the following competitions we were the winners :

Lewis Gun Competition Individual Teams (Cpl. Taylor's). Prize £8.

Lewis Gun Competition Regimental Aggregate. Prize, a Silver Cup.

Machine Gun Competition. Prize, silver medals.

Sergeants' Mess Competition. Prize, silver cup, presented by *The Cologne Post and Wiesbaden Times*, and silver spoons.

The following were the principal individual winners of money prizes in their various classes :—

Match 1 (*Rapid*, 300 *yards*).—3rd, Pte. Moseley. £1.

Match 2 (*Snap-shooting*, 300 *yards*).—1st, Pte. Waters. £2 10s. (tie).

Match 3 (*Deliberate*, 500 *yards*).—4th, L.-Sgt. Allard. 15s.

Match 12 (*Individual Revolver*).—Lieut. J. P. A. G. Graham, 1st. £2.

Regimental Rifle Meeting

The Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on the Lambach Range on July 28 and 29. This range was originally constructed by the French Algerian Sharpshooters and was altered to our requirements by the Regiment under R.E. supervision.

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For the Individual matches, the competitors were divided into the following classes :—

Class A.—Marksmen and 1st Class Shots. All officers, warrant officers, sergeants, lance-sergeants and corporals.

Class B.—2nd and 3rd Class Shots.

Class C.—Other ranks who had never classified on an open range, this included those who have only fired Parts 1 and 2 of Table " R."

The Individual matches were :—

Match 1.—Deliberate, 300 yards, small 4 ft. target.

Match 2.—Snap-shooting, 300 yards, large snap-shooting target, with an inscribed ring of 12 ins.

Match 3.—Deliberate 500 yards, large 6 ft. target with an inscribed bull of 12 ins.

Match 4.—The Individual Championship.

Aggregate of matches 1, 2, and 3, H.P.S. 85.

RESULTS—CLASS A

Match 1.—L.-Sgt. Robinson (" C " Company).

Match 2.—Pte. Court (" H.Q." Wing).

Match 3.—Capt. C. W. H. Bailie (" B " Company).

Match 4.—1, Pte. Court, 64 (" H.Q." Wing); 2, C.Q.M.S. Bull, M.M., 60 (" D " Company); 3, C.S.M. Farindon, 60 (" A " Company).

(C.S.M. Farindon lost the tie).

The Team Matches were :—

Match 5.—The Company Shield. Conditions as for the A.R.A. First Army Cup but without the march.

Match 6.—The Platoon Lewis Gun Match. Conditions as for practice 4 of the A.R.A. Company Shield but modified.

Match 7.—The Group Lewis Gun Match. Conditions as for Match 6.

Match 8.—The Platoon Rifle Match. Conditions as for the Hopton Cup, but modified.

Match 9.—The Group Rifle Match. Conditions as for Match 8.

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Match 10.—The Platoon Cup. Aggregate of Matches 6 and 8.

Match 11.—The Group Championship. Aggregate of Matches 7 and 9.

Match 12.—The Lea Cup. Teams to consist of 8 officers, sergeants, corporals and privates.

Practice 1.—Rapid 300 yards small 4 ft. target.
Practice 2.—Deliberate 500 yards large 6 ft. target.
Practice 3.—Deliberate 600 yards large 6 ft. target.
H.P.S. 60 by 8 = 480.

Match 13.—Officers' Match. Deliberate 600 yards large 6 ft. target.

RESULTS

Match 5.—" C " Company.
Match 6.—No. 14 Platoon (Lieut. R. H. Cooke).
Match 7.—No. 1 Group.
Match 8.—No. 6 Platoon (Lieut. R. H. Doyne).
Match 9.—No. 3 Group.
Match 10.—No. 14 Platoon (Lieut. R. H. Cooke).
Match 11.—No. 1 Group.
Match 12.—Sergeants, 323; Officers, 318; Corporals, 269; Privates, 263.
Match 13.—1, Lieut. A. B. Hamilton.

The weather was indifferent throughout, and it rained steadily throughout the afternoon of the 29th. This and the fact that over 350 competitors fired Match I, caused the Lea Cup and Officers Match to be fired at a later date.

The usual Spoon Bull and Pool Bull competitions were heavily patronised.

The Commanding Officer kindly gave the prizes away on July 30.

Bronze medals were given to the members of winning teams, and £47 was distributed in cash prizes.

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A.R.A. Non-Central Matches, 1925

These matches were fired as opportunity offered on the Urbach Ranges, and very little practice was possible: the results were as follows:—

Match.	Team.	H.P.S.	Score.	Place.	Prize.
1st Army Cup	"C" Coy.	1768	774	2	Bronze Medal and £4.
Machine Gun	M.G. Pln.	1320	685	8	£2
Duke of Connaught Revolver	Regimental	960	396	14	£2
18th Hussars' Cup	Regimental	25400	17591	11	£2

A.R.A. Decentralised Matches, 1926

18th Hussars' Cup

Awarded on the result of the Annual Course.

Individual winners. Table "L"

(*a*) Winner of Silver Spoon by virtue of highest score in the Regiment.—No. 5377268 L.-Cpl. S. Brooks ("A" Company). Combined score 332.

(*b*) Winner of Bronze Badge.—No. 5376955 Sgt. A. Cooper ("C" Company). Combined score 316.

(*c*) Winners of Bronze Badges.—No. 5377793 L.-Cpl. V. Bowerman ("A" Company). Combined score 303; No. 5373635 Pte. A. Williams ("D" Company). Combined score 286.

Table R (*Rifle only*)

(*a*) Winner of Silver Spoon.—2nd Lieut. C. Clifton. Score 136.

(*b*) Winner of Bronze Badge.—No. 5377470 Cpl. G. Harcourt ("C" Company). Score 120.

(*c*) Winner of Bronze Badges.—No. 5377304 Bds. J. Mackinson ("H.Q." Wing). Score 126; No. 5378265 Pte. F. Wright ("D" Company). Score 126.

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The Signallers, 1926

In spite of interference to training, owing to the move from Cologne and the digging of the rifle range, the Signallers managed to keep up their previous reputation at classification. Twenty-seven men classified with an average of 99.5 per cent. of marks.

Field Training was curtailed owing to the lateness of classification and a prolonged musketry period.

By far the most interesting scheme was the Brigade Signal exercise, which lasted two days.

We had breakfast at 2 a.m., and at 3 a.m. marched out to our first position about nine miles away in the middle of a dense forest.

We got into position sooner than was expected, and as operations did not start until 7 a.m., we cooked and ate some more breakfast.

Unfortunately, the wireless set which was to be attached to us failed to find our position, and push bike had to be resorted to for communication to Brigade, which, owing to there being several mountains on the way, took a long time.

Eventually we received a message to advance, and moved out into the open country, where visual became possible.

We continued advancing by bounds until 6 p.m., when we heard with relief that we were to go into Brigade reserve and we billetted in a very comfortable inn in the little village of Oberlibbach. We had an alarm at dawn the next morning and had to turn out in a hurry without breakfast, which rather damped our ardour, but, in half-an-hour, we were told to go home and we returned and breakfasted in comfort

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in our billet. Then we marched 14 miles back to barracks, feeling very satisfied with ourselves, and everyone having thoroughly enjoyed it.

Manœuvres consisted chiefly in long marches, which from a signaller's point of view was not very interesting.

This year ten old signallers have left the section which is rather disconcerting, but we hope to keep up our average at next year's classification.

SECOND BATTALION, 1926

Our record of weapon training for this year is a somewhat bare and meagre record of facts.

Except during 1924 at Rawalpindi, our range facilities since our arrival in India have been almost non-existent.

To the uninitiated, it would appear as easy to discharge one's piece from the top of a hill as it is at the bottom, but our experience has proved it very much the reverse. At Chakrata the range is only just large enough for classification in Tables "R" 2nd "L."

The Machine Gun Platoon found it impossible, and descending to Dehra Dun fired their classification practices on one of the Gurkha ranges, whereby they benefited accordingly.

With the exception of classification, that is to say Tables "R" and "L," Revolver and Machine Gun Classification, it has not been possible to use the range at Chakrata at all, and in Dehra Dun we have been too busily occupied with training to use the Gurkha ranges.

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The averages and numbers fired are given below.

AVERAGE OF COMPANIES IN TABLE R

Company.	Numbers fired.	Average.
Headquarters Wing	109	93.17
"A" Company	127	84.7
"B" Company	124	75.97
"C" Company	131	85.03
"D" Company	123	94.42

AVERAGE OF COMPANIES IN TABLE L

Company.	Numbers fired.	Average.
"A" Company	35	140.54
"B" Company	36	123.08
"C" Company	28	121.03
"D" Company	34	118.47

AVERAGE OF COMPANIES IN REVOLVER

Company.	Numbers fired.	Average.
Headquarters Wing	20	87.85
"A" Company	13	77.46
"B" Company	11	74.09
"C" Company	8	67.5
"D" Company	13	78.54

MACHINE GUN CLASSIFICATION

Numbers Fired.	Average.
54	264.55

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SIGNALLING, 1926

The Signallers classified for the training season of 1925-26 at Razmak just after the Razmak Column came in in February. Considering the limitations of training, the figure of merit of 97.6 was good.

The collective test went off well.

We lost a lot of good men during 1926, and we classified this year at about 96.5, probably a little disappointing, but figures of merit mean very little in "India."

This winter we have reorganized our Signals and hope to get good results before the collective test. We have also started a Regimental Pigeon Loft, which promises well and at least gives scope to the facetious.

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ATHLETICS, 1926

First Battalion

Langenschwalbach is not an ideal place for sports, as a somewhat undersized football ground is the only flat piece of ground for a good many miles round. With a lot of work and trouble and under the management of Lieut. Graham and Pte. Gale, we made a cinder track in which, in spite of its sharp bends and the fact that it was only 290 yards round, was quite good running. The annual sports were held on July 21 and 24, and thanks to the management and never-failing energy of Major Powell, a lengthy programme was completed.

The following were the results :—

July 21

Throwing the Hammer.—1, Lieut. Jarvis; 2, Cpl. Ireland; 3, C.S.M. Clarke. Team, " D " Company.

220 *Yards, Boys* 14-16.—Boy Hatcher, Boy Cottee, Boy Jarvis.

220 *Yards, Boys* 16-18.—1, Boy Cale; 2, Boy Whitton; 3, Boy Hobson.

Throwing the Javelin.—1, L.-Cpl. Willoughby; 2, Pte. Webb; 3, Pte. Barratt. Team, " A " Company.

100 *Yards Open.*—1, Lieut. Graham; 2, Pte. Walters; 3, L.-Cpl. Rawlings.

100 *Yards Open* (*under 2 years*).—1, Pte. Tarbox; 2, Pte. Brooks; 3, Pte. Bartlett.

Putting the Weight.—1, C.S.M. Clarke; 2, Pte. Webb; 3, Lieut. Jarvis. Team, " D " Company.

220 *Yards Open.*—1, Pte. Jones; 2, Pte. Walters; 3, Lieut. Rowley.

220 *Yards* (*under 2 years*).—1, Pte. Tarbox; 2, Pte. Brooks; 3, Pte. Turley.

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Throwing the Discus.—1, Lieut. Graham; 2, Pte. Webb; 3, Lieut. Jarvis. Team, "Y" Company.

880 *Yards Open.*—1, Pte. James; 2, Bandsman Busby; 3, L.-Cpl. Leggett.

880 *Yards (under 2 years).*—1, Pte. Reading; 2, Pte. Stokes; 3, Pte. Fuller.

440 *Yards Challenge Belt.*—1, Lieut. Bernard; 2, Lieut. Graham; 3, Cpl. Went.

Consolation Race.—1, Pte. Battey; 2, Pte. Coombs; 3, Pte. Barrett.

3 *Mile Team and Individual.*—Pte. James.

JULY 24

400 *Yards Relay.*—1, "Y" Company; 2, "X" Company; 3, "A" Company.

Tug-of-War Catch Weights.—1, "B" Company; 2, "D" Company.

Pole Jump.—1, Pte. James; 2, Pte. Wells; 3, Pte. Mahon. Team, "X" Company.

2 *Miles Relay.*—1, "X" Company; 2, "Y" Company; 3, "C" Company.

Inter-Platoon Relay.—1, No. 11 Platoon; 2, No. 16 Platoon; 3, No. 2 Platoon.

High Jump.—1, Lieut. West; 2, L.-Cpl. Willoughby; 3, L.-Cpl. Beaumont. Team, "C" Company.

One Mile Team and Challenge Belt.—1, Lieut. Graham; 2, Pte. James; 3, Pte. Busby. Team, "X" Company.

880 *Yards Relay.*—1, "Y" Company; 2, "X" Company; 3, "C" Company.

Sack Race.—1, L.-Cpl. Wood; 2, Pte. Hardy; 3, Pte. Parsons.

One Mile Relay.—1, "X" Company; 2, "Y" Company; 3, "C" Company.

Old Soldiers' Race.—1, Bandmaster Smith; 2, Col.-Sgt. Ridgeway; 3, Sgt. Chantry.

Long Jump.—1, Bandsman Jones; 2, L.Cpl. Willoughby; 3, Bandsman Brooks. Team, "X" Company.

A.O.F.B. Inter-Company Relay.—1st Bn. Headquarters.

Inter-Company Relay.—1, "Y" Company; 2, "X" Company; 3, "C" Company.

Tug-of-War 110 *Stone.*—1, "D" Company; 2, "A" Company.

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The result of the Inter-Company Shield was :—

1st, " X " Company, 63 points.
2nd, " Y " Company, 55 points.
3rd, " C " Company, 41 points.
4th, " D " Company, 40½ points.
5th, " A " Company, 36 points.
6th, " B " Company, 31½ points.

After the Regimental Sports, we began to get together a team for the Rhine Army Sports, and with the help of Sgt.-Instructor Smith, from the P.T. School in the field events, we got together quite a good team, though we did not think we should defeat the Camerons, who were very good all round. We started off quite well by Lieut. Jarvis throwing the hammer an immense distance, and we got third in the long jump, and during the rest of the first day we got through all our heats. The mile and three-mile team races, however, afforded us our best chance, and a wonderfully good piece of running by the team consisting of Lieut. Graham, Sgt. Lucas, Pte. James and Pte. Busby, who ran packed together the whole way and gradually ran through all the other teams, gave them an easy victory, in both cases the whole team coming in all together in the first seven places. The second day was rather disappointing however, as we were beaten in the sprints and Lieut. West sprained his ankle, which lost us the quarter mile and second or third places in the hurdles. The half-mile we won quite comfortably. In the end we were beaten easily by the Camerons and again by a small margin by the K.S.L.I., who overhauled us on the second day. As regards the rest of the season, there is not much to say. Lieuts. Graham, Bernard, West and Rowley,

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and in some cases Pte. Waters and Bandsman Jones formed an indefatigable team in the Open Relay Races out here, and we were unbeaten during the season.

Lieut. Jefferson won the "Throwing the Discus" again at the Army Championships, and Lieut. Graham, who had not been able to train very much in Germany, was fourth in the half-mile. We have got quite a good lot of young talent in the Regiment, which we can only hope spells success for the future.

With prospects of a good season in view, we started to train a team for the Rhine Army Cross Country Championship.

We ran several matches against practically all the regiments out here before the actual race, all of which we won easily, excepting the last, in which we only had a very weak team running. Naturally after all these successes, we thought very highly of our chances in the Rhine Army race, but whether it was that the team was stale and had run too much, or whether it was the ground we ran over, we were soundly beaten by the Worcesters, who had been third in the Army race last year, but whom we had previously beaten twice, and also by 2 points by the K.S.L.I., whom we had also beaten. Lieut. Graham, however, carried off the Individual Honours, and Sgt. Lucas was fourth, closely followed by Ptes. Snell and James, after whom there was a very sad gap. The race took place on a very hot day in April over a sunbaked course of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Most of the team were very footsore and it was altogether rather a disappointment. We can only hope that we shall do better next year, and we know that at least we have the makings of a very good team.

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Second Battalion

Regimental Sports, 1926

The Regimental Sports have been re-organised this year, and have been divided into individual and relay events. The former took place on Waterloo Day, and was purely for the regimental championships, no points counting to Companies, and we had a most successful day. They were organised by the Colonel, and considering the track and the altitude, some 7,000 feet, there were some very good performances. Sergeant Brown, who has unfortunately gone home, Lance-Cpl. Philpin and Macleod were the most successful competitors.

On Nonneboschen day we had the inter-company sports. The idea was to keep the individual merged as far as possible in the company relay teams, thus bringing out the team spirit. Every company turned out a well-trained team for each event, and finally "B" Company snatched a well-deserved victory from the Headquarter Wing in the final pull of the last tug-of-war, a most exciting and dramatic finish.

The Waziristan District Sports

The Waziristan District Sports took place at Bannu on December 3, 4, 5, and 7. The Regiment sent a team down to Bannu about a week before, so that they could get used to the lower altitude.

We were faced with many difficulties in training the team. At Razmak there was no proper track to train on, and nowhere to practise the field events. When we got down to Bannu, we were not much better off,

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as no preparations were made for the sports until the day before they took place. In consequence, it was only with the greatest difficulty that we managed to get high jump stands and a long jump pit for purposes of training. The runners, however, were able to put in some good work on the polo ground.

Considering their somewhat scanty training, the team did very well. L.-Sgt. Brown won the 100 and 440 yards and many members of the team were placed in their events.

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CRICKET, 1926

First Battalion

In 1925, at Cologne, the Regimental Cricket team played quite a number of matches and in the musketry camp at Liedenhausen, Companies played every afternoon. This year, owing to there being no ground at Langenschwalbach, there has been very little cricket. The few matches that were arranged have been played in Wiesbaden. The first game against the King's Dragoon Guards was won by 121 runs, Smith making 74. The only new players from 1925 were West and Rowley.

We were drawn against the Royal Engineers in the first round of the Inter-Regimental Cup and the match took place on June 11 and 12. West and L.-Cpl. Willoughby quickly got them out for 87. Stevens 60 and Graham 58 put on 113 for our first wicket, our total reaching 199. In their second innings, the R.E. did a little better, making 129. The seventeen runs required were made without losing a wicket. In the second round, the Worcestershire Regiment beat us by 38 runs after a very good match. They batted first and scored 200 for 3 wickets, and we looked like having a big score against us. With the new ball, L.-Cpl. Willoughby did the hat trick and took 5 wickets for 16 runs, their score only reaching 235. We made 170, Smyth 95 and Smith 81, added 158 for the fourth wicket. We got them out for 192 in their second innings. Major Pelly, 102, played a splendid innings for them. Left with 157 to win, we

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made a very poor start, losing two wickets in the first two overs for 5 runs. We never really got going and lost by 38. We were not as good a side as last year. The bowling and fielding were steady, and C.Q.M.S. Dudley again kept wicket excellently. The batting was far too uneven. Against the Worcester Regiment in our first innings, seven batsmen made 33 runs, and in the second, seven made 36. This was no doubt due to the lack of practice. We shall have practically the same side in 1927, and if the ground at Langenschwalbach dries up, and cricket can be played in the evenings, it will make a great deal of difference to our side. C.G.B.S.

Second Battalion

The cricket report for the year is practically a nil return. The Razmak winter weather and flannels do not go together, and at Chakrata a suitable ground is the difficulty. The only two possible flat spaces are the Regimental parade ground, which is required for all games and therefore cannot justifiably be closed for the comparatively few cricket enthusiasts, and the polo ground at Kailana, six miles away. On either of these grounds, any good boundary hit would lose the ball.

In consequence, until December this year, no serious cricket had been played since the winter of 1924-25. This means that the Regimental Eleven has to be practically rebuilt, several regular players, Captain Giles, Sgt. Pike, Bugler-Major Connell, L.-Cpl. Windscheffel, among the most important, having now left us.

At Dehra Dun, however, there is plenty of room near at hand and good opportunity of taking cricket in

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hand and getting it back to the standard of 1923-24. We are also fortunate in being close to the Royal Indian Military College who have been kind enough to let us use their nets for practice. In fact our only Regimental match this year has been against the College, and a very pleasant two days' match it was, played on the best ground we have so far come across in India. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, though it is better not to go into details with regard to the score. There was some interesting cricket on the first day and during the morning of the second, but after that the Regiment collapsed badly, and we must own to being well below the R.I.M.C. standard at present. This is, however, due to a continuation of adverse circumstances during the past two years, and is more our misfortune than our fault.

At the moment, cricket, though perhaps of a rather primitive kind, is very popular among the men and scratch matches between platoons and companies go on nearly every day.

It is therefore to be hoped that some new blood may be found for 1927 and that the eleven may again be able to hold its own against all comers.

The Regimental Cricket Week

June 19 *to June* 23, 1926

In every way the Regimental Cricket Week this year may be considered the most successful which has taken place so far.

The weather was more than kind, the number of officers, both serving and past, who attended was a record, and our team won all their matches.

June 19 was the Regimental Day, and after the

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general meeting of officers which commenced at 11.45 a.m., there was a lively scene on the Depot lawn when the 43rd band played while everybody was assembling prior to the Regimental lunch. Sixty-four members of the Regimental Club and their wives attended the lunch after which the officers of the Regiment were " At Home " on the cricket ground at which there was a large gathering from the counties.

On June 21, the Regiment was again " At Home," and the band of the 43rd played each afternoon throughout the week.

Our first day's cricket was to have been against the 2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade, and we were much looking forward to this match; unfortunately, however, they had not left Catterick, where they had been sent during the general strike, and could not come at the last moment. On the 19th, therefore, the Regimental team played Lieut.-Colonel Wynter's R.H.A. team.

The following are the results of the matches:

FIRST DAY—JUNE 19, 1926

Innings of R.H.A.

J. F. Whiteley, b. Willoughby	6
P. M. Balfour, st. Dudley, b. Graham	9
C. N. Brownhill, b. Graham	6
W. Harman, b. Willoughby	30
Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Wynter, b. Millett	2
Captain Wingate Gray, run out	1
F. S. Siggers, b. Willoughby	4
Captain C. I. McKay, b. Willoughby	14
Gunner Fielding, c. Millett, b. West	10
Gunner Brown, b. Willoughby	16
Gunner Westley, not out	5
Extras	5
Total	108

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Innings of The Regiment

Mr. Graham, b. Brown	4
Mr. Grant, b. Siggers	62
Bandmaster Smith, b. Harman	63
Cpl. Millett, l.b.w., b. Harman	6
Mr. West, c. Whiteley, b. Siggers	26
Cpl. Barker, c. Fielding, b. McKay	0
Captain Eyston, c. W.-Gray, b. McKay	1
Lieut.-Colonel Weatherby, not out	17
Mr. Doyne, b. McKay	6
C.Q.M.S. Dudley, l.b.w., b. Siggers	3
L. C. Willoughby, not out	3
Extras	19
Total for 9 wickets	210

SECOND DAY—JUNE 21, 1926

The Regiment v. *Major S. E. Ashton's XI*

Innings of Major Ashton's XI

F. De Rougemont, b. Willoughby	0
H. Aubrey Fletcher, b. Graham	2
J. T. Weatherby, b. Graham	0
S. C. Lee, b. Graham	14
J. Clarke Brown, c. Dudley, b. Millett	4
A. Muirhead, b. Graham	0
W. R. G. Bye, c. Doyne, b. Graham	3
N. Dixon, not out	10
M. H. Bull, b. Millett	0
D. Cameron, l.b.w., b. Graham	5
S. E. Ashton, b. Graham	0
Extras	7
Total	45

Mr. Graham took 7 wickets for 15 runs.

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Innings of The Regiment

Mr. Graham, b. Lee	2
Cpl. Barker, c. Bull, b. A. Fletcher	5
Bandmaster Smith, b. A. Fletcher	6
Captain Eyston, c. C. Brown, b. A. Fletcher	0
Lieut. West, l.b.w., b. Lee	0
Cpl. Millett, c. C. Brown, b. Lee	60
Capt. Horley, b. A. Fletcher	43
Captain Smyth, b. Fletcher	39
Lieut. Doyne, b. Lee	0
C.Q.M.S. Dudley, not out	6
L. C. Willoughby, not out	13
Extras	4
Total for 9 wickets declared	178

2nd Innings of Major Ashton's XI

S. C. Lee, c. Smith, b. West	16
N. Dixon, c. Dudley, b. Graham	0
J. T. Weatherby, st. Dudley, b. Willoughby	4
H. Aubrey Fletcher, b. Willoughby	5
J. Clarke Brown, b. Smith	14
D. Cameron, b. Willoughby	0
F. De Rougemont, b. Willoughby	2
A. J. Muirhead, b. Barker	7
W. R. G. Bye, st. Dudley, b. Millett	30
S. E. Ashton, not out	4
Extras	9
Total	114

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THIRD DAY—JUNE 22, 1926

Innings of Bicester Hunt

Captain Hay, c. Dudley, b. Graham	6
Colonel Lonsdale, st. Dudley, b. Millett	4
Major Osborne, b. Graham	26
Lieut.-Colonel Weatherby, b. Millett	42
C. Palmer, st. Dudley, b. Millett	21
G. Passmore, b. Eyston	23
D. Whitton, b. Millett	27
Mr. Doyne, b. Millett	5
A. Watson, b. Millett	2
F. Eldridge, b. Millett	12
Dr. Johnson, not out	1
Extras	11
Total	180

Cpl. Millett took 7 wickets for 56 runs.

Innings of The Regiment

Mr. Graham, b. Palmer	0
Captain Eyston, c. Passmore, b. Palmer	30
Mr. Grant, run out	6
Captain Giles, b. Palmer	6
Cpl. Millett, b. Whitton	26
Lieut. West, b. Eldridge	93
Captain Horley, b. Eldridge	28
Lieut. Kilburn, not out	31
Cpl. Barker, not out	6
Extras	21
Total	247

C.Q.M.S. Dudley and R.S.M. Whitton did not bat.

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FOURTH DAY—JUNE 23, 1926

Innings of Major Neame's XI

Major Muirhead, l.b.w., b. Millett	5
Captain Shennan, b. Whitton	74
C. Brownhill, b. Willoughby	40
Major Neame, c. Dudley, b. Millett	8
C. G. Nicholson, c. Doyne, b. Willoughby	12
Captain R. Harrison, c. Whitton, b. Willoughby	11
Colonel Wynter, b. Millett	1
E. Mockler Ferryman, not out	52
Major W. Duncan, st. Dudley, b. Willoughby	3
Sgt. Watson, l.b.w., b. Millett	7
R. Hobbs, c. Dudley, b. Willoughby	0
Extras	23
Total	236

Innings of The Regiment

Bandmaster Smith, c. Neame, b. Duncan	51
C.Q.M.S. Dudley, c. Shenna, b. Hobbs	11
Captain Eyston, b. Duncan	39
Lieut. West, b. Duncan	9
Cpl. Millett, c. Hobbs, b. Brownhill	27
Captain Giles, c. M. Ferryman, b. Nicholson	57
Captain Horley, c. Neame, b. Duncan	31
Lieut. Doyne, st. Watson, b. Brownhill	21
Captain Eagle, st. Watson, b. Brownhill	1
L. C. Willoughby, c. and b. Neame	19
R.S.M. Whitton, not out	1
Extras	7
Total	274

Cpl. Willoughby took 5 wickets for 69 runs.
Cpl. Millett „ 4 „ „ 68 „
Major Duncan „ 4 „ „ 81 „

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FOOTBALL 1926

First Battalion

Football in the Rhine Army started almost immediately we got back from manœuvres, and the Regiment entered for the " A " League, the " Knock-out " Cup Competition, and the Boys " Knock-out " Cup Competition.

The " A " League came first, being a series of Saturday matches from the middle of October to the end of February, the other competitions coming after the " A " League was finished.

The situation as regards football in the Regiment was this : we had done very badly last season in the " A " League and consequently the Regiment rather expected us to do the same this season. It was therefore essential to start off the season well ; but, unfortunately, for the first eight weeks, we had no ground in Langenschwalbach to play on.

However, we did what we could and fielded quite a good team against the Camerons, who were one of the strongest teams on the Rhine. Although we lost 4—2, the score hardly indicated the run of the game, and things looked more hopeful.

The next week we beat the Worcester 2—1. This was quite a surprise to the Regiment and resulted in two lorry loads of spectators going to Wiesbaden the next Saturday to see us beat the Berkshires 4—1.

Now came the question of leave ; two plans could have been adopted. The first was to try and win the " A " League by playing a fairly good team all through

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the season, allowing one or two of the team to go on leave each fortnight. This was considered risky as only our very best side could have won the league, and moreover our lack of ground was against this.

We therefore adopted the second plan, which was to concentrate on getting together a strong Regimental side during October, November, and December, send them all on leave in January, play a reserve team during that month, and then finish up the league with our best side again.

In this way we entered the " A " League in order to experiment with the talent in the Regiment and gradually train a good team, rather than to win the " A " League.

We hope by the end of February to have a good enough team to go near to winning the Rhine Army Knock-out Cup Competition.

Up to the present we have played 11 matches, won 5, lost 4 and drawn 2, and are about half-way through our league programme, most of the team being away together now.

Apart from Regimental Football, our lack of ground prevented any company football, until the beginning of December when we started an inter-company league.

On the whole, football in the Regiment is very flourishing now, as can be seen by the interest taken in Regimental matches, even when they are played away.

In the last two matches before going on leave, our regular team showed distinct improvement. They first drew with the K.S.L.I., who were an unbeaten side, and then beat them 4—1; our defence is very

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sound, but owing to lack of practice at the beginning of the season, our forwards, though now combining well, still find it difficult to finish off.

Our reserve team, which has played one match, put up a very game fight, and it was noticeable how good a game some of the old soldiers played. We have two more matches to play before our team returns off leave, and then we can start to train our team for the Cup Competition.

Company football has been greatly hampered by the frost, but we hope to be able to finish the league by the middle of March.

Second Battalion

The standard of football in the Regiment during the year 1926 has not been very good. This can be partly attributed to the lack of grounds, and partly to the lack of opponents. There is only one football ground at Chakrata, and that is unfit for play for about two months out of the year, on account of the rains.

Lack of opponents affected the Regimental Team more than the Company teams. The only team the Regiment could find to play against was the Kailana Depot team. They gave us several good matches, but in order to produce a good team, it is necessary to have a certain amount of variety in one's opponents, and this was impossible in Chakrata.

In September, the Regiment sent a team to Simla for the Durand Tournament. As this was the first time that the Regimental team has played in a tournament since the Regiment left Rawalpindi, and as very little training has been possible, they did no worse

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than was to be expected. They drew a bye in the first round, and were beaten by the Royal Tank Corps in the second round, by three goals to one, after a fairly even game.

The Inter-Company Football was won by the Headquarter Wing, "A" Company were second, "B" Company and "C" Company tied for third place, and "D" Company were fourth.

Rugby Football

Looked at in the cold light of print, our record at Rugby football for this year is nothing to write home about. It reads as follows :—

Played 3, lost 3 ; points for, 3 ; points against, 32.

On the other hand these three matches represent the total number of games played by us, practice or otherwise, and the stony wastes of Waziristan and the equally stony parade ground at Chakrata, have offered no opportunity whatever for practice, except in the way of a few scrum practices and kick-abouts.

On the march down from Razmak, we played a match against Bannu, and lost by 7 points to 3 after quite a good game in which our team made up for their lack of knowledge of the game by their keenness and vim.

Our next match was six months later at Dehra Dun. It had been hoped that a triangular tournament would have been able to be played between ourselves, Dehra Dun and the Detachment of the South Wales Borderers from Kailana, but owing to expense, the latter were unable to come down and two matches with Dehra were played by us instead.

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We lost the first one by 14 points to nil, and the second by 11 points to nil and considering we had at least six people in our team to whom rugby was quite a new game, the result was quite creditable.

While we are at Chakrata, serious Rugby will be out of the question, but if we move to a station in the plains, we have every hope of playing the game more than is done at present, even starting an inter-Company Rugby League to count points for the Athletic Trophy.

We shall be able to raise quite a good side with the talent the Regiment possesses. The following played for the Regiment this year:

Lieut. J. A. Theobalds, Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., 2nd Lieut. K. Bayley, Captain K. Horan, 2nd Lieut. F. T. Horan, 2nd Lieut. C. L. C. Ward, Captain W. A. R. Ames, 2nd Lieut. A. Macleod, Lieut. G. G. Hughes, Captain T. E. Withington, A.F.C., Sgt. Dean, Pte. Felton, Sgt. Brown, C.S.M. Bailey, Pte. Norman, Pte. Wheeler, Pte. Cole, L.-Cpl. Incox, Sgt. Cobb, Pte. Holdsworth, Pte. Melhuish, L.-Cpl. Edkins, Pte. Worthington, Pte. Carterm, Pte. Butterworth, Sgt. Bone, and Cpl. George.

Depot Football

The season was started more hopefully than usual, as we have most of last season's side still available.

We have entered for the same three competitions as we did last year.

Oxford County Junior Shield.

Oxfordshire County Junior League.

Oxfordshire City Junior League.

In the shield we have now reached the fifth round,

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when we will play the Y.M.C.A. on January 22. The other matches were won as follows.

1st round—A bye.
2nd round *v.* St. Barnabas, 3—2.
3rd round *v.* Clarendon Press, 2—0.
4th round *v.* Dorchester, 4—1.

In the two leagues so far, we have only played five matches with the following results :—

County League.

v. Morris Motors. Won, 6—2.

City League.

v. Headington. Lost, 3—6.
v. St. Thomas. Won, 5—0.
v. St. Thomas. Lost, 2—4.
v. Old Citizens. Won, 6—1.

Pte. Long has again captained our team.

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HOCKEY, 1926

First Battalion

The hockey season of 1925-26 was rather disorganised by the move from Cologne to Langenschwalbach. At Cologne we played on our barrack square. This was rather undersized and had natural hazards in the shape of trees, which encroached on one side of the ground; but the surface was fairly good and made it possible to play without any danger of the ball bouncing up off a stone and hitting you in the face, which so often happens when playing on the barrack square. We had a good side and usually defeated the other regiments in the garrison except the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, who won the Army Hockey Cup this year.

Also, which is really more important than producing a good regimental team, we managed to get a number of company games, and, if no outstanding talent was discovered, we at any rate found that we had no dearth of players, who were keen on the game and ready to turn out at any time.

Our move to Langenschwalbach has been a great set back to hockey. We have no ground there and, owing to the nature of the country, no amount of time or trouble could make one that would be worth playing on. This means that all hockey matches have to be played in Wiesbaden, twelve miles away. The attendant transport arrangements and expense make it impossible to arrange matches except for the regimental team, and

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they naturally suffer from lack of practice in between matches.

In spite of these difficulties, we have had quite a successful season so far, having won 7 and lost 9 matches.

The Inter-Company competition for 1925-26, which we played on the Regimental football ground, was won by " C " Company.

We still have plenty of keen hockey players and when we get to a station which has more facilities for the game, we look forward to having some keen company matches, and a really good regimental team.

Second Battalion

Although a great deal of Inter-Company hockey was played this year, our situation allowed of very few Regimental matches, and only five were played.

Four of these were against the Kailana Hill Depot and one against the Royal Indian Military College.

We beat the Kailana Depot twice, drew once, and lost once, and we beat the R.I.M.C. by 7 goals to 2.

The standard of hockey in the Regiment is extremely good at present and all Inter-Company matches have been closely fought out with little to choose between any side. The grass pitch at Gangora is greatly appreciated after the dusty and stony ground at Chakrata.

The following have played for the Regimental Team during the year :—

Captain Horan, Captain Ames, C.S.M. Bailey, Sgt. Norton, Sgt. Hazell, Sgt. Broderick, L.-Cpl. Bullock,

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L.-Cpl. Philpin, L.-Cpl. Butler, L.-Cpl. Simpson, Pte. Kent, Pte. Beck, L.-Cpl. Wilkinson and Pte. Spacey.

Depot Hockey Notes, 1926

The following fixtures have been played up to date :—

October 6.—*v.* Wallingford. Away. Lost, 3—5.
October 21.—*v.* Kestrels. Home. Draw, 2—2.
October 26.—*v.* Lincoln College. Home. Draw, 1—1.
October 29.—*v.* Berks Depot. Home. Lost, 1—5.
November 12.—*v.* Worcester College. Home. Draw, 2—2.
November 18.—*v.* Kestrels. Away. Won, 2—1.
November 19.—*v.* Pembroke College. Home. Won, 2—1.
November 26.—*v.* Wadham. Home. Lost, 0—5.
December 1.—*v.* Trinity. Home. Won, 6—2.
December 9.—*v.* Staff Territorial Bns. Home. Won, 4—0.
December 16.—*v.* Kestrels. Home. Won, 2—0.
Played 11. Won, 5. Lost 3. Drawn, 3.

There has been great enthusiasm this season for hockey, and starting with a rather weak side, we have now developed considerably and play well together.

Pte. Freeland has played excellently in goal, having developed a very safe kick. Lieut. Bayley, now used to grass, partners Sgt. Finch at back successfully.

The half-line has been reinforced by C.Q.M.S. Bull, who we are very glad to have back with us. L.-Sgt. Yates and Cpl. Clarke have been doing good work as wing halves. Long, who played centre half at the beginning of the season, now plays forward with greater effect; the remainder of the forward line, L.-Sgt. Franklin, Lieut. Randall, Toms, and Haines, all do good work, and are developing combination and dash.

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The following have also played very good games for the side :—Cpl. James, who has filled the difficult position of left wing and also is a useful half back ; Cpl. Heredge at back, and Cpl. Flexen on the right wing have both come on tremendously this season.

We are hoping to revenge our defeat by the Berkshire Depot next month with our greatly improved side, and at the time of writing we have just received an invitation from the Rifle Depot to go down to Winchester for a match, which we are greatly looking forward to.

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GOLF

First Battalion

A large number of officers of the Regiment have been playing golf at the Chausseehaus. This is a nine hole course about six miles from Langenschwalbach, situated in very pretty surroundings.

A team was entered for the Inter-Regimental Cup and won fairly easily.

The results were as follows :—

1st Round.—*v.* R.E. Won by 26 holes.
2nd Round.—*v.* Worcester Regt. Won by 10 holes.
3rd Round.—*v.* R.A.M.C. Won by 22 holes.
Final.—*v.* R.A.S.C. Won by 7 holes.

The final was a very good match. At lunch time we led by 5 holes, and it was still a very open match. Whinney 5 up and Stevens 6 up, practically decided the match in the afternoon, Stevens round of 67 being a record for the course. The scores were :—

Stevens	.. ..	6	Lt.-Colonel Horton	.. 0
Giles	.. ..	0	Major White	.. 0
Whinney	.. ..	5	Major Cooke ..	.. 0
Lathbury	.. ..	0	Captain Humphreys	.. 4
		11		4

It is hoped that this year we shall be able to enter a team for the Army Championship which is being played at Deal in May. If Smith is home on leave from the 52nd, a really good team should be got together.

C.G.B.S.

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BOXING

First Battalion

Boxing in the Regiment has been taken more seriously since being on the Rhine, and at Cologne, it seemed that we had good material to bring on. However, the "season" was greatly interrupted on account of the move and settling down at Langenschwalbach, where we found no accommodation for a gymnasium; but in spite of all it was decided to enter a team for the Rhine Army Competition in March. Two or three competitions were held in the Kurhaus in preparation for this, and the Inter-Company Competition was keenly contested on the Barrack Square, being won by "A" Company.

Our team in the Rhine Army Competition did not figure very well, but were not last on the list. Bandsman Davis was unfortunate to meet in the first round the ultimate winner of the Feather-weights, but boxed well, being beaten on points.

The "Season" opened again, after a strenuous summer of musketry and Field training, with a small Brigade Competition, while a detachment were in Weisbaden for the Armistice Celebrations. It was run on the team knock-out system, and our team did very well, everybody showing great pluck and determination.

Captain Smyth on giving up the Adjutancy, has presented a Challenge Cup for an Inter-Company League Competition. This is now in full swing, and

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it is hoped that the result will be a very great improvement in the standard of boxing in the Regiment.

Briefly the lines on which the competitions are being run are :—

Each Company, including "X" and "Y" of Headquarter Wing, enter an "A" team consisting of seven weights (excluding fly-weight), and a "B" team of four weights (middle, welter, light, and feather). Four companies are drawn to fight each Thursday evening, the two winning companies counting 2 points towards the League. It is hoped to be able to run through the League twice during the winter. Each competitor is supplied with a supper in the canteen on the evening that he fights, and being on Thursday it is all the more appreciated.

Pte. Walters won the Henley Middleweight Challenge Belt again for the third year in succession, and is to receive a replica.

It is hoped to add two more Challenge Belts, Major Brett and Captain Bailie having promised to present them.

The whole secret of success in Regimental boxing is to secure the services of a man, who can both box himself and train others. The Depot are trying hard to enlist a man of this type from the Oxford district, and when found it is proposed to make him the Regimental boxing instructor, and pay him from Regimental funds an additional wage, which, together with his Army pay, will give him relatively the same amount that he would be earning in civil life. It is hoped, by adopting this system, to raise the standard of boxing in the Regiment to a very marked degree.

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Depot Boxing

Boxing has been well kept up at the Depot during the year, and several of the recruits showed great promise.

The standard throughout the year has been very high from the point of view of keenness and hard hitting, but naturally enough there has been more fighting than boxing.

What is most satisfactory is that there has been an almost entire absence of "poor shows." With the new year, 1927, we have lost our P.T. Instructor, Staff-Sgt. Lees, who has done a great deal for the Depot boxing.

Our new instructor has not yet had an opportunity of demonstrating the results we hope he is achieving.

On January 14, a team of eight recruits went over to Reading to box a team from the Depot of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. The latter unfortunately had a platoon of Durham miners, and we only succeeded in winning one fight. The remainder did not by any means disgrace themselves and put up a real good show against bigger, stronger, and better trained men.

An individual boxing competition was held on November 9 and 10, and this was followed on December 1 by the inter-platoon competition for the picture of Sir John Moore.

June and September Platoons were very equal throughout, and the result was in doubt up to the last fight, when the senior platoon won by the narrow margin of two points, the October platoon being a good third.

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Naylor has been very kind in coming up to judge, and Wootten happened to be here for the inter-platoon competition, and was immediately snapped as referee.

We hope to have our revenge on the Berkshires this year.

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TENNIS

First Battalion

We have been fortunate in securing the use of three good hard tennis courts in the Park at Langenschwalbach throughout the season. One of these courts was handed over to the Sergeants and married families who made very good use of it.

We opened the season by giving an American Tournament in May. The sun shone and the Commander-in-Chief and his partner won the first prize. I think our visitors enjoyed themselves, if only for the joy of getting out of Wiesbaden on a very hot day.

Later in the season we arranged a match against G.H.Q., and we were badly taken on as none of us could cope with the Rev. W. H. M. Aitken, the well-known Wimbledon player. Having now secured him as our Padre, we intend to challenge G.H.Q., again when the tennis season starts.

The sports epidemic takes up a good deal of our spare time in the summer, and makes continual practice at tennis difficult; but we put up a good show in the Inter-Unit event in the Wiesbaden Tournament, and although we lost the Cup our representatives, Captain Stevens and Captain Packe, were only beaten in the final by the R.A.M.C., who produced a very hot pair.

The warrant officers, sergeants, and married families gave a tennis "At Home" in June, which proved a great success. Tea was served on the lawn beside the courts under the shade of an old umbrella.

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A match was also arranged against the Educational Corps (mixed doubles). Our team put up a very good show and only lost by a few games.

H.F.W.

Second Battalion

A certain amount of tennis has been played by nearly everyone during the past year, failing anything better to do. When we first arrived at Chakrata, no one had any ponies, and there had not been time to find out much about the shooting or fishing; so the three courts at the Club were pretty extensively patronised. Also during the monsoon, when nothing else could be done, it was sometimes possible to snatch a few games during a break in the weather as the courts dried very quickly.

The sergeants had two courts at their Mess, and another court was procured, and placed at the disposal of the married families, and was made good use of.

The officers defeated the sergeants in their annual encounter, but from the form displayed by some of the younger officers, it looks as if the sergeants will strike a winning patch before long.

Two tournaments were played against the Hill Depot at Kailana, in each of which we were successful, rather to the surprise of our opponents, I think. Barnard was the mainstay of our team.

An innovation was a tournament for the warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Regiment and their wives. Entries from the last named were not numerous, but we hope for better

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things next year when they will have had another twelve months practice on their court. Surprisingly good form was shown by some of the junior N.C.O.'s and privates, whose opportunities of practice are so few and far between.

There are good courts at the Club at Dehra Dun, but none of the Regiment plays here, all spare time in the station being devoted to polo.

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THE REGIMENTAL RACE, 1926

THE Regimental Point-to-Point Race for the Orman Challenge Cup was held on Thursday, March 18, in the South Oxfordshire Hunt Meeting. The Course at Poppets Hill was the same as last year, the going being good.

There were eleven entries, of which nine faced the starter.

From a poor start, Eris Crag and Toto jumped off in front, closely followed by Sportsman XXII, Quicksilver and Woodbine, the back division consisting of Paddy, Afgar, Sportsman and Festivity. At the third fence, Woodbine was leading with Eris Crag, Toto and Sportsman XXII in close attendance. Going up the hill to the ninth fence, the field began to string out, Eris Crag, Toto and Sportsman XXII taking the lead. The last named's jockey (Graham), however, was unseated at the eleventh fence, and falling on his head sustained slight concussion. Eris Crag and Toto maintained their lead up to the second fence from home, when Toto fell leaving Eris Crag to win easily in a canter. Paddy made a supreme effort and passed Woodbine and Quicksilver over the last fence, thus securing second place by two lengths from Woodbine, with Quicksilver 4th, Festivity 5th, and Afgar 6th. Conant pulled Sportsman up before the last fence.

The following is a list of starters :—

1. Mr. R. T. Conant's gr. g. " Sportsman." Owner.
2. Captain E. H. Whitfeld's b.m. " Woodbine." Owner.
3. Lieut.-Colonel Guy Blewitt's b.g. " Eris Crag." Owner.

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4. Mr. J. E. Dunbar-Kilburn's gr. m. "Quicksilver." Owner.
5. Major A. E. Sanderson's r. g. "Sportsman XXII." Mr. J. P. Graham.
6. Captain J. W. Meade's b.g. "Paddy." Owner.
7. Mr. R. H. Doyne's b.m. "Festivity." Owner.
8. Lieut.-Colonel J. T. Weatherby's b.g. "Toto." Owner.
9. Captain P. Booth's ch. g. "Afgar." Owner.

The following entered but did not start :—

Mr. C. R. Parsons' ch. m. "Zingarina."
Major A. E. Sanderson's ch. g. "Gingerbread."

TEAM RACE, 1926

The 43rd and 2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade team race took place at Faringdon on April 1 at the Old Berkshire Hunt meeting. The course, a part of which was over General Higgins's land, was in good condition, and with the exception of one very small piece of plough excellent going. A very large variety of fair hunting obstacles were met with, including a post and rails, a formidable ditch, and a niceish piece of water.

The teams were as follows :—

43rd Light Infantry

1. Major A. E. Sanderson's r. g. "Sportsman XXII." Mr. M. H. Last.
2. Mr. R. H. Doyne's "Sunray." Owner.
3. Mr. R. H. Doyne's b. m. "Festivity." Mr. A. B. Slessor.
4. Captain J. W. Meade's b.g. "Paddy." Owner.
5. Mr. J. Dunbar-Kilburn's gr. m. "Quicksilver." Owner.
6. Captain P. Booth's ch.g. "Afgar." Owner.

2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade

1. Lieut.-Colonel J. L. Buxton's ch. g. "Ferryman." Owner.
2. Colonel D. K. Bernard's b. g. "John Peel," Mr. Purdon.
3. Mr. G. V. Troyte-Bullock's br. g. "Penny." Owner.
4. Mr. C. I. P. Holroyd's br. g. "Ronald." Owner.
5. Captain F. E. Fulford's br. g. "Mickey." Owner.
6. Mr. A. C. Gore's br. m. "Loughborough." Owner.

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An amusing incident occurred at the start of the Race. Colonel Buxton had given his team instructions to keep together, to ride as a team, and not to go racing off at break-neck speed. Our team had similar orders to wait on the Rifle Brigade, the result being that the race started at a slow canter. After the first fence, however, the Rifle Brigade team went away, followed by our representatives. All went well up to the fifth fence, when Festivity fell and Quicksilver ran out at the rails (seventh fence). Up to here Fulford on Mickey had been leading, but now Ronald went ahead followed by Penny, Mickey, Loughborough, Sunray, Paddy and Sportsman XXII.

At the eleventh fence, Ronald fell and Gore went right ahead on Loughborough and led the whole way up to the last fence. After the rails, Colonel Buxton, on Ferryman, moved up to his horses and at the water, three fences from home started to catch up, jumped the last fence with Loughborough and succeeded in winning on the post. The following was the order past the post. Ferryman (13 points), Loughborough (11 points), Ronald (10 points), John Peel (9 points), Paddy (8 points), Sportsman XXII (7 points), Mickey (6 points), Sunray (5 points), Penny (4 points), Afgar (3 points).

Thus the Rifle Brigade won the Challenge Cup by 53 points to 23.

The 43rd have now won the Cup twice and the Rifle Brigade once.

It is interesting to note that Doyne has since bought the winner, Ferryman, from Lieut.-Colonel Buxton, and we hope that he may obtain first place again next year for his new stable.

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HUNTING AT THE DEPOT

SEASON 1926-7 UP TO DECEMBER 31, 1926

IT would appear that we at the Depot have unintentionally erred in reporting our hunting activities in the last two editions of the CHRONICLE, in that we have dealt with one complete hunting season, whereas the CHRONICLE is a recorder of events during one calendar year.

In this case, therefore, my task is considerably simplified as the whole of the 1925-26 season has already been dealt with, and it merely remains for me to do my best to give a record of the season 1926-27 up to December, 1926. It seems best to commence by describing the situation, at the beginning of the season, of the three packs with which we hunt most, and from whom, as usual, we have had the greatest kindness and consideration extended to us both from the point of view of subscriptions, and in every other way. I speak of the South Oxfordshire, Bicester and Old Berkshire Hunts, whose leading personalities will be known to the majority of readers of the CHRONICLE.

Mr. Fane, unfortunately, owing to ill health, had to resign the mastership of the South Oxfordshire at the end of last season. Mr. Fane hunted the South Oxfordshire from 1909 to 1914, again as joint master with Major Ashton from 1920 to 1924, and by himself from 1924 to 1926. How popular he was and what good sport we had with him is so well known that it

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is unnecessary to dilate on it here. Suffice it to say that his kindness to the Depot will never be forgotten.

General Miller, who kept on the hounds during the war, again stepped into the breach. He quickly collected a large number of first rate horses in the hunt stables, and in doing everything humanly possible to give us good sport has undoubtedly succeeded. We only hope that he will continue his Mastership for many years to come. Naturally there have been changes in the hunt servants. Jim Wardle, first whip of the Atherstone, a keen and business-like man, has come as huntsman. Harry Wilkins, late second whip, has been promoted to first whip, with George Windridge, also from the Atherstone, as second whip. General Miller also has a mounted terrier man, as, although good old "Rec" is invariably to be seen at the meets "Anno domini" does not allow him to move so swiftly on his pins as in days gone by.

This season also marks the disappearance of another well-known member of the S.O.H. staff. Age will tell, and George Baker retired from the active list at the end of last season, after having served with the hunt since 1909. He was presented with a testimonial to which, among many others, all the past and serving officers of the Regiment, who knew this cheery sportsman, subscribed.

With the Bicester, Lord Chesham has resigned from the joint Mastership and Mr. Budgett has taken on the hounds by himself. We miss Lord Chesham in the hunting field, and we fear that he will also be absent from the Bicester team at our annual cricket match in the Regimental Week. Johnson, we are glad to say, is still huntsman and is showing us the

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usual first rate sport. The Masters and staff of the Old Berkshire are the same as last season.

Up to date the season has been very open, and we only hope that foot and mouth or frost and snow will not make their appearance later on.

Sport with all three packs has been excellent. The Boxing Day meet with the South Oxfordshire deserves mention in that it was a most satisfactory day in all respects. On arrival at Thame Park, we found police directing the traffic and parking the large number of motor-cars arriving from all directions, and an immense concourse of people on foot assembled. I should think there must have been nearly a thousand. Having with difficulty made our way to the house, we found generous hospitality being dispensed, and were not slow to take advantage of it. A large field having eventually assembled, a move was made to Sydenham Hurst, which held at least three brace of foxes; however, the concourse of foot people surrounding the cover made it impossible to do anything with them, but one which got away with hounds close on his brush was accounted for in the Park. The Bank Holiday crowd having thus been satisfied, Holliers was drawn and found to be blank and a move was made to Moreton Gap, where hounds at once found and hunted catchily over Lobbersdown Hill and over Moreton Doubles where they changed foxes. This fresh fox led them very fast back towards Lobbersdown making a point for Lobb. Hounds raced over the London road and bending left handed pointed for Cornwall Gorse, and crossed the Haseley Brook. Refusing the Gorse, the fox swung right handed again; recrossing the brook and passing Warren

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Copse, hounds ran over the plough to the Little Milton-Rofford road, where they checked for the first time; getting going again they crossed the brook to Cowleaze, where several foxes were afoot; hounds then hunted on to Coldharbour and back to Cowleaze where they were stopped. So ended a grand gallop over the best of the country, a six miles point and ten as hounds ran.

Of the many good hunts with the Bicester so far this season, the one that impressed itself most in my memory was a brilliant hunt of one hour and twenty-five minutes with a seven mile point from the meet at Aston-le-Walls. Finding near Appletree, hounds ran fast to Aston-le-Walls. Here they turned left handed and ran on by Spencer's Bushes to Hellidon Windmill; thence crossing Catesby Tunnel and Sharman's Hill, to Fawsley Park, where they turned right handed and killed their fox in the open before reaching Preston Capes in the Grafton Country.

We now have 10 horses in the Depot stable made up as follows: Meade 4, Sanderson 3, Booth 1, Randall 1, Theobalds 1.

We are expecting Crosbie and Wynter again this season to hunt with us during their leave, and we are looking forward to their arrival with 4 horses and 3 horses respectively early in January. This will fill our stables up to their limit. Three more loose boxes have been built at the Depot this year, making the total accommodation up to 18. Mr. Skillings continues to preside over the stud as head groom and succeeds in keeping our horses sound and fit.

One word about that all absorbing topic wire, of which unfortunately there is still a considerable

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amount in the South Oxfordshire country. A committee has been formed with Vere Spencer as Secretary and the County has been divided up into areas with energetic members in charge of each area. There is no doubt that the wire is slightly on the decrease, and where it cannot be removed, it is now well marked. Great credit is due to Meade who has worked in the Depot Wire Area nearly every non-hunting afternoon and his reward is the extraordinary decrease of wire in the Baldon district.

In conclusion let us hope that luck, as regards weather and disease, will remain with us and that " with hounds healthy, earths well stopped and foxes plenty " we may have as good sport in the second half of the season as we have had in the first.

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OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

THE Twelfth Annual Reunion and Luncheon was held at the Holborn Restaurant, London, on October 9th, 1926. Major-General Sir John Hanbury Williams presided.

The General Meeting took place at 12.30 p.m., when the following resolutions were passed.

1. That the Minutes and Accounts be accepted.
2. That the President and Vice-President be re-elected.
3. That a Chairman of the Working Committee be elected.
4. That the 1927 Re-union shall be held in Oxford on Saturday, October 1.

One hundred and seventy-one members attended the luncheon and among those present were Major-General Sir John Hanbury Williams, Brig.-General the Hon. A. E. Dalzell, Major-General H. R. Davies, Brig.-General C. G. Higgins, Brig.-General A. J. F. Eden, Colonel Lethbridge, Colonel A. G. Bayley, Colonel E. R. Clayton, Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Frith, Lieut.-Colonel R. G. H. Hughes, Lieut.-Colonel Ovey, Lieut.-Colonel Ruck-Keene, Colonel F. Stapleton, Lieut.-Colonel Luard, Majors A. E. Sanderson, R. J. Brett, C. S. Baines, C. F. Henley, Whittall, Captains Wootton, A. E. Mason, F. M. Roberts, G. Naylor; Lieuts. Randall and Atkins also many others.

Ex-Band-Sergeant Broome assisted by Ex-Bandmaster F. Bradley and Ex-Corporal Broome must be congratulated on the excellent programme of music provided during the luncheon.

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OFFICERS' DANCE, 52ND

THE 52nd have in the past paid but the merest lip service to Terpsichore, but on our arrival from Razmak pulsing with social expectations, we determined to make good our past deficiencies. For some time there was talk of a dance, followed by the inevitable Mess meeting when, with unpunctuality and lack of despatch, nothing was decided; and finally we started to pay. Then we realized the worst. At last a Committee was formed of two well-known "parlour snakes," Crawford and Hughes, and a "Jungli Bandar" in the form of Stephens, who was fool enough to offer to feed the brutes.

We were rather up against it from the start. We thought of the Depot and Mr. Jones, and dropped a silent tear, what time settling down to the business of hiring thousands of plates, knives, forks and spoons, hundreds of glasses and dishes, scores and scores of chairs, palms, "et hoc genus omne." We had one bit of luck at the outset: our very good friend, Major Hutchinson, of the C.I.H., lent us the Prince of Wales Military College, of which he is Commandant, an ideal place for a dance with a floor which Stephens, having relations in the business, assured us the Kit Cat could not surpass.

The day came. There was no holding the officers, who had sunk a month or two's pay each and were determined to get it back by fair means or foul. The date was not propitious as many people were out in their Christmas shooting camps. However, nearly

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two hundred rolled up, and their cars were parked in a R.A.C. park which would have done credit to Epsom. Sergeant Green announced the guests, but quite a number, when asked their names, said, " Oh ! my name's Jones ; didn't I meet you in D.I.K. ? " This unnerved most of us for the rest of the evening.

Meanwhile the band was excelling itself and the floor presented what the Dehra Dun *Chronicle* afterwards described as a " memorable scene." With such verve did the band play and the dancers dance that we were able to get rid of some claret in the form of cup that had been a drag in the Mess Stock book for a twelvemonth. At twelve a heated and agitated Stephens emerged from the back purlieus and after conferring agitatedly with Crawford on the imminent dissolution of the ice pudding, we sat down to a supper of many courses, washed down by magnums of champagne. Stephens had devised mess waiters dressed as in the period of the Mysore War—no easy work when you have our Labh Singh as the local Nathan—and with wigs and patches they looked most effective. It was rather a business sitting down everybody at once, but it was probably worth while.

After supper, the cupboard lovers slunk off, but many ardent spirits continued till 4 a.m., some in " Kala Juggahs " cunningly devised by Hughes and decorated by Mrs. Freestun, and other officers wives, with great taste ; some in the bar ; some dancing and others, if rumour be true, further afield. At 4 a.m., there was a riot above which " John Peel " was faintly audible, and we sat down to eggs and bacon and black beer.

Did space permit, one could tell of much, of those

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who danced and of those they danced with, and how often; of those who drank, what they drank and how much; of those who talked and who they talked to and how softly; of Colvill making heroic conversations with Generals in the face of fearful odds; of Metcalfe and the fire picket; of the opening measure trod so stately by the Horans; and of many other things. As it does not, one can only conclude by saying it was the best show of its sort the writer ever remembers having been at.

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THE 43RD SHOOT, 1926

IT was towards the end of April that we began to consider the taking of a shoot for the winter. We had had great fun in our venture last year near Cologne, taken on when the 6oth left, and we hoped that the Taunus Mountains would provide an area which abounded in partridge, pheasant, and hare.

About this time, too, long letters were circulated by G.H.Q. about the terms under which shoots could be taken within the occupied area; these we waded through and blankness came over our faces, what it all meant, what exactly was a "Landesregierurgen" or a "Allgemeiner Deutscher Jadgschutzverein" we could not think. However, one or two of us decided to make further enquiries and report in due course to the Mess.

We eventually elucidated the following: that there were three kinds of shoots :—

(1) *Field.*—The possibilities of game were doubtful, but it consisted of buzzard hawks, magpies, an occasional hare and foxes ! ! Partridges there were none, these it was said had been destroyed wholesale by the French, with what truth I cannot say.

(2) *Buck and Stag, and Boar.*—This type was divided into communal (which belonged to the State) and private shoots. In the former a rent of 1 mark per hectare was charged, which covered damage, in addition all game shot had to be paid for; this ranged from 2 marks for a hare, 63 marks for a fallow deer, to 115 marks (£5 15s. od.) for a male red deer. Boar

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were considered vermin, and for these no charge was made. In the latter a higher rent was asked, according to the game supposed to exist on the shoot, there was no price per head of game shot, but the lessees were responsible for all damage done on the shoot. This we gathered might easily run into 1,000 marks (£50) in a night should a boar come down in the winter and root up a field.

(3) *Duck Shooting on the Rhine.*—This necessitates the use of a motor-boat holding 4 guns, for which a charge of £5 per day is made. It is reported to be excellent, but nothing can be done before January 1.

After visiting several known shoots in the area and taking the advice of Dr. Pfeifer, the leading shikari of Langenschwalbach, who strongly advised us not to embark on a private buck shoot, we decided to look farther afield and try for a field shoot if one could be found.

Later on we heard that the Manchester Regiment, at Konigstein, had found a shoot on the plains, at a place called Schwalbach, near Cronberg, about six to seven miles N.W. of Frankfurt, for which they were being asked £100. They invited us to go in with them to which we agreed after seeing what was to be had. The shoot had been leased previously to a French General, with the result that more game existed on it than in most of the surrounding country. It was about 1,000 acres of arable and roots, with one large wood and several smaller ones; it was reputed to have several coveys of partridges, plenty of hare, and a few pheasants, while more might be picked up on one boundary which ran along the edge of a wood in which birds were known to be put down.

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The owner invited us to try one or two days to see for ourselves, and after much discussion we both decided to take the shoot, each to pay half. The use of a keeper was also given, whose wages, 50 marks a month, we were asked to pay.

Of the shoot itself it is difficult to do more than record one's impressions. The most forcible of these are :—A long motor drive on a Sunday morning in a car packed with people, guns and a large luncheon basket, starting away from the mess after considerable delay, while officers had their breakfast, collected cartridges, etc. Of long and tedious beats through the wood by beaters who never would nor could keep a line, following one another through the thin parts and leaving the thickets to take care of themselves. Of much loosing off of guns at anything which might appear and which more often than not got away. Of the Bisley-like aim of a young officer who removed the head of an already defunct hare, of another officer's delight in bagging a woodcock and of the keeper's dog running amok daily to the detriment of the bag.

Our total bag for the season amounted to :—

Partridges	.. .. ..	29½ brace.
Pheasants	.. .. ..	4½ „
Hares..	.. .. ..	146
Rabbits	.. .. ..	4
Pigeons	.. .. ..	2
Woodcock	.. .. ..	2

Also one officer who got slightly peppered while walking up partridges. A couple of snipe were seen towards the end of the season, and a few more woodcock.

On the whole the shoot was rather disappointing, we certainly had expected larger bags, especially of

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partridges and pheasants; the former of which practically disappeared after we had been shooting a month. There is no doubt that at one time the shoot was fairly well poached, snares were discovered on several occasions; but after the keeper had been jokingly accused of putting them down himself, they ceased. This incident nearly caused an international crisis, and it took the combined tact of several members to persuade him to continue giving us his services; but the keeper seldom smiled again.

Once the root crops were up and there was no cover left except the woods, we drove all the open by the German method of "Kesseling." In this the guns and beaters collect in one spot and decide on the area to be surrounded and driven; then two guns, known as "the horns," set off in different directions each followed by two beaters at 30 to 40 yards interval who in turn are followed by another gun and so on. When the horns have worked round the area and have practically met, the two lines turn inwards, forming a huge circle, and walk towards the centre; when the diameter of the circle has been reduced to about 200 yards, the guns stop and the beaters walk on into the middle. During the first move to the centre, all game is shot within the circle, in the second guns face outwards and fire when anything breaks out of the ring.

A word about expenses; it was decided that half of our share of the rent, £50, should be paid by the Sporting Fund, and that the remaining £25 should be paid by those who shot. This worked out at about 7s. 6d. a day per individual. Our share of the keeper's wages and the cost of the beaters' lunch, was nearly

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covered by the sale of game. The only other expenses were :—Cartridges, 25 a day was as a rule ample, especially towards the end of the season, and the charge for the mess Ford, 16s., if insufficient private cars were available ; the Ford could take four, so as a rule this item never worked out more than 8s. and more likely 4s. So I think we can congratulate ourselves on cutting down the expenses to the lowest limit.

At the beginning of the season, we generally had 8 to 10 guns from the Regiment, with 4 to 5 from the Manchester Regiment, but as the leave season progressed, the numbers became reversed. There was always the difficulty of transport, a matter of 30 miles for us, which did not exist as far as the Manchester Regiment were concerned, who were only three miles from the shoot. In November, the 7th Fusiliers, who had relieved the Royal Ulster Rifles at Idstein and Konigstein, always provided another two or three guns and half the beaters. These, about 12 from each of the two regiments at Konigstein, drove down in G.S. wagons and enjoyed a day in the open air, even if they did not always relish pushing through thick woods and trekking over stubbles in a " Kessel."

On looking back at it all and judging by the total bag, I think the shoot was hardly worth the price paid for it, but still it was better than nothing, and really we got quite a large amount of fresh air, exercise and fun. There were always amusing incidents, when one officer of the Regiment, who shall be nameless, went to sleep in a slight pause when walking up partridges, but still it was a hot day and after lunch. And on the day when we got our first woodcock when beating a

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small wooded ravine out of which flopped a small brown bird, immediate cries of "cock left" arose which nearly frightened the small brown owl off the face of the earth. Also the hoarse cries of "Wood hare" on the appearance of a rabbit. And the muttered imprecations of a certain member of the mess over the eggs and sandwiches provided for lunch. Still it all was fun and we enjoyed it, and what more can one want?

J.J.P.

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THE REGIMENTAL COMMITTEE

THE full report of the doings of the Committee for the quarter ending March 31st, 1926, has been circulated to all subscribers to the different funds, the chief points in which are :—

Captain F. M. Roberts, M.C., late Quartermaster at the Depot, has succeeded Major Wenham as Secretary.

The organizations dealt with by the Committee are as follows :—

(1) The Regimental Association (in which is incorporated the Dalzell Trust and Pension Fund).

(2) The Disabled Soldiers Cottage Homes.

(3) The Regimental Charities Fund.

(4) The Regimental Chronicle.

(5) The Regimental Journal.

(6) The Regimental Club.

(7) The Regimental Memorial Upkeep Fund.

(8) Miscellaneous matters dealt with by the Committee.

The Regimental Association were able to place 12 men in employment ; it is hard to say how many others have been successful in finding employment through the auspices of the Association as men seldom notify the Secretary when work has been found.

£162 14s. 11d. was paid as relief for sickness and distress while £53 12s. 9d. has been advanced on loan during the year.

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The number of pensions is 3 monthly and 22 quarterly.

With regard to "The Regimental Chronicle" the Committee was faced with the problem of balancing this fund which had shown a debit on the 1924 and 1925 numbers. They decided to accept an estimate from another publisher rather than raise the subscriptions or lower the standard of the publication.

In August, 1925, Major Palmer, who had assisted in the starting of the "Journal," handed over the duties of manager to the Secretary of the Regimental Committee.

An average of 1,723 copies of the "Journal" have been sold for the six numbers published to date, and the accounts show a credit balance of £90 8s. 8d.

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POLO, 1926

AFTER the sale of the polo ponies at Rawalpindi in 1925, prior to moving to the frontier, polo in the Regiment rather came to a standstill, except for a few games played on the Aerodrome at Razmak.

We all hoped that we should be sent to a good polo station, but our hopes were soon dashed to the ground, as Chakrata is very nearly hopeless for any serious polo.

However, thanks to the energetic efforts of a number of officers who toured the country for hundreds of miles round, we managed to collect a certain number of ponies by the end of the summer, and a start was made after the monsoon on the very small ground seven miles away from Chakrata.

As soon as we arrived in Dehra Dun, however, serious polo started, and we are entering for the Infantry Tournament in February.

The ponies we have managed to obtain are all turning out well, which says a great deal for those officers who took such trouble to try to collect them. There are now 13 or 14 officers playing polo, and we should be able in time to turn out a very good team.

Next year I hope that there will be full accounts of all tournaments that the Regiment entered for.

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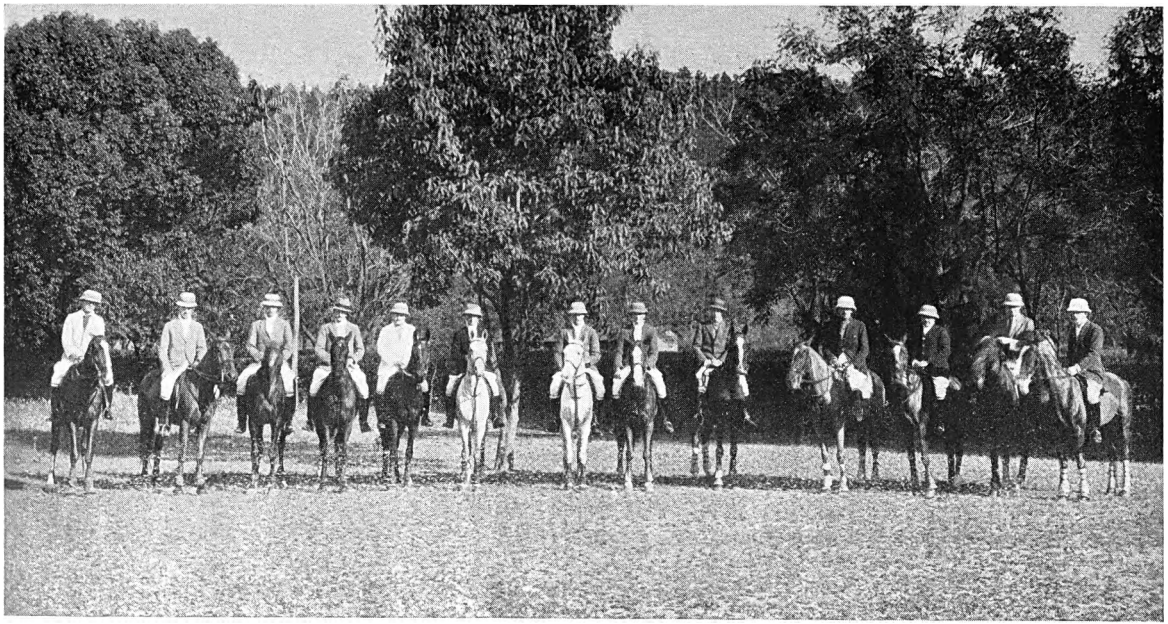

52ND OFFICERS. POLO PLAYERS.

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RACING IN RHINELAND

RACING in the occupied area of Germany so far as the British Army is concerned takes place on the Erbenheim course four miles out of Wiesbaden, though there are other courses at places garrisoned by French troops. The Erbenheim course is the property of the Wiesbaden Race Club, which was unable to hold any meeting during the past season owing to lack of funds. Meetings were held under the auspices of the French Army of Occupation between April and October.

The steeplechase course is a tricky one owing to its many twists and turns, which proved very confusing to riders not thoroughly acquainted with them, and early in the season it was very common to see a large number of horses go the wrong course; it is even reported that in one "chase" two horses actually took the same fence at the same time from opposite directions; whether this is true or not it certainly is a fact that in that particular chase only one horse completed the right course. The jumps look more formidable than they really are.

The majority of the races are open only to officers and N.C.O.'s of the French Army, but at each meeting there were one or two British races, and one or two Inter-Allied events; in the latter the honours were undoubtedly with the French. There are several reasons for this. Most of the horses of officers in French mounted units come from the Government thoroughbred stud, also much is done by the French Government and various horse breeding societies to

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encourage racing in the Army; furthermore, there are far more mounted units in the French Army of Occupation than in the British, and this would probably account also for the higher standard of jockeyship of the French.

Individual riders amongst the British did well, but the average was distinctly lower than the French.

The Regiment was well represented, having the following horses in training :—

Colonel Bayley's Flavia.
Major Whinney's Mah Jong.
Lieut. Graham's Santa Paula.
Lieut. Graham's Gloriso.

In addition to the above there were Atlanta and Leila belonging to officers of other units which were drafted into the stable to be trained. All the above except Santa Paula and Gloriso are chargers. Santa Paula is an American bred horse, half-sister to Zev, the American champion. Gloriso ran in Lord Derby's colours in the 1921 Derby.

Santa Paula was brought out from England by Graham, and Gloriso is leased by him.

The chief winner was Santa Paula, who was only beaten once and then was the victim of hard luck. With half the field she completed the course at a false start and after this severe handicap, could only finish third when the race was finally run. Mah Jong worthily upheld the prestige of the British Army by winning an Inter-Allied flat race from two much fancied French horses. Atlanta won one race and was twice placed. Leila was placed on more than one occasion and would have won once if she had not

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broken down twenty yards from the post. Gloriso also broke down after having been twice placed, another stroke of bad luck, as bar accidents he could not have lost the race in which he broke down.

The results obtained are all the more creditable when it is considered that Langenschwalbach is completely destitute of any flat ground for gallops or schooling, and that therefore all serious work has to be done on the race course which is fifteen miles away and entails much early rising on the part of trainers. As regards riders, Graham has ridden more winners than any other rider in the British Army of the Rhine, and Clifton has ridden one winner and several placed horses.

G.F.P.

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THE SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO, 1926

A FULL account of the Searchlight Tattoo both from the point of view of the audience and from behind the scenes has appeared in Vol. II, No. 10 of the *Regimental Journal*.

It seems, however, that what is believed to be a display unique in the annals of the Regiment, might be allowed a small space in the more permanent columns of the REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE. I therefore forward it for what it is worth.

Encouraged by the reception given to the very small effort of this sort which was presented last year by the Depot in connection with the floral week, I conceived the idea of organizing a tattoo on a much more ambitious scale and in connection with no other function, with the following objects in view :—

(*a*) To obtain funds for the Regimental Association.

(*b*) To bring the activities of the Regiment before the people of the City of Oxford and the Counties.

(*c*) To stimulate recruiting in the Counties.

The tattoo which was held from August 23 to 28, was produced under the auspices of the Regimental Association on the distinct understanding that the Committee accepted no financial liability in case of loss.

It was obvious that, if it was to be a success, a venture on this scale could not be undertaken with the small number of officers and other ranks at the Depot, and furthermore we were anxious that all the troops in the Counties should be as far as possible represented.

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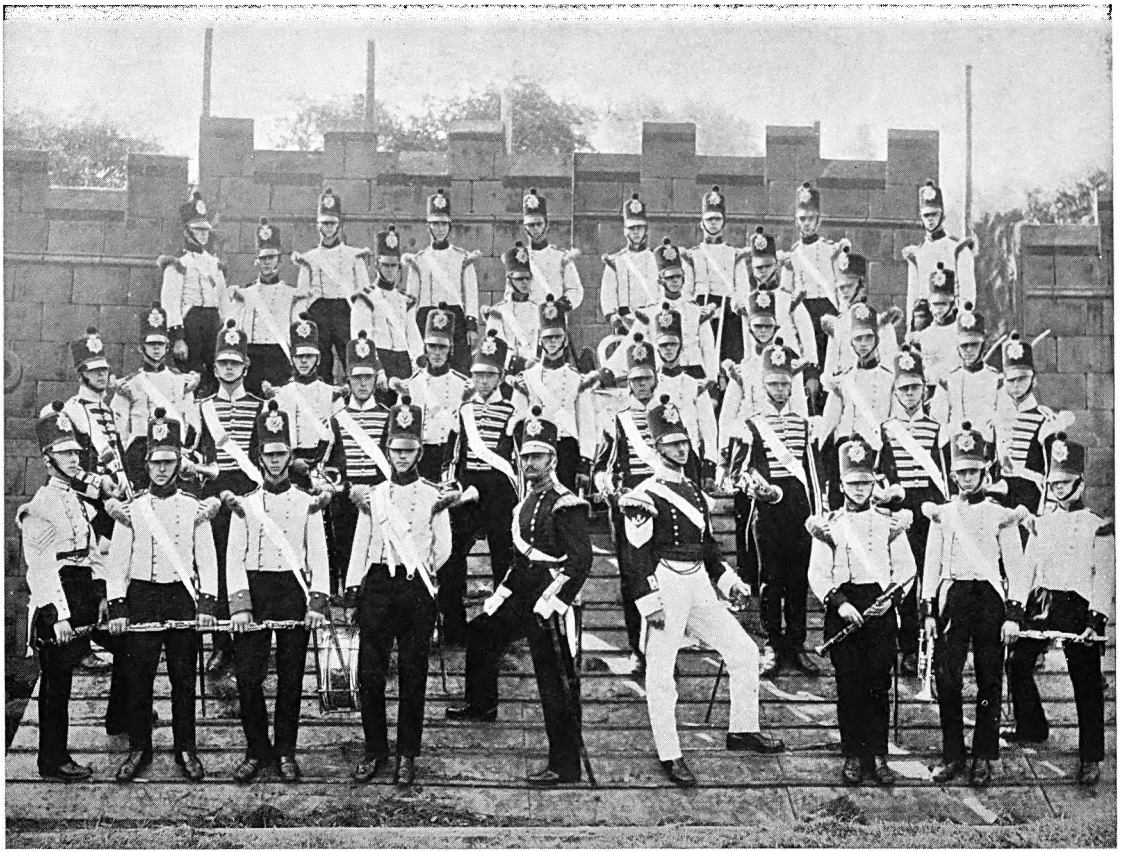

SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO AT OXFORD, 1926. THE PAGEANT OF TIME.
BAND AND BUGLERS OF THE 43RD. UNIFORM, 1850.

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With this end in view Colonel Ballard commanding the 4th Battalion, and Major Muirhead commanding 399th (Oxfordshire Yeomanry) Field Battery R.A. (T.A.) were approached and readily promised their co-operation. Colonel Crouch commanding the Bucks Battalion also was only too anxious to take part, but unfortunately owing to the distance from which his men would have to be brought in each night, this was impossible.

The preparations took a considerable time, but we were determined that, as far as possible, all uniforms, scenery, etc., should be made at the Depot and should thus be available for future displays of this nature. All available talent was thereupon roped in with the result that all the British uniforms, as nearly as possible correct in design, were made by the Depot Master Tailor, Mr. Grant, and the scenery, except that used for Badajoz, constructed and painted by Pte. Le Page, the Depot pioneer.

The City played up most magnificently and our heartiest thanks are due to the many individuals and firms who lent their services and their apparatus for no charge.

The following is an abridged programme :—

1. Selection. Massed bands of 43rd Light Infantry and 4th Battalion. Guard Mounting—two guards, in 1814 and 1914 uniforms respectively.

2. Musical Drive. 399th (Oxfordshire Yeomanry) Field Battery R.A., in the uniform of Royal Artillery, 1815. Musical accompaniment by band of 4th Battalion.

3. Physical Training Display. Platoon of 20 recruits from the Depot, Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. The display included marching exercises, body exercises, horse work, and two tableaux.

Gymnastic display and assault at arms by members of the Army Physical Training Staff from the Army School of Physical

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Training, Aldershot, including parallel and horizontal bars, quarterstaff and high vaulting horse. (On two nights only.)

Musical accompaniment in both displays by the band of the 43rd Light Infantry.

4. Sounding of the "First Post" by 8 Buglers of the 43rd and Depot in uniforms as worn by Buglers of the Regiment in 1850.

5. Present and Past. A combined display of 1926 and 1812.

1926.—A modern battle by a detachment of the 4th Battalion assisted by the 399th Field Battery R.A. (T.A.).

The display depicted a counter-attack by a platoon of Infantry on an enemy who had forced a passage through the defending outposts. This display showed the action of Artillery, Mortars, Armoured Car, Machine Guns, Lewis Guns, Rifle, Rifle and Hand Grenades.

1812.—Assault on a Fortress in the Peninsular War, carried out by Officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and trained soldiers of the Depot, and depicting the attack on the Forlorn Hope and the assault of the 43rd and 52nd on the great breach of Badajoz on April 6, 1812.

The explosive effects in both the above displays were arranged and worked entirely by the officer and N.C.O.'s of the Cadre Platoon of the Depot.

6. Drill display by a platoon of recruits of the Depot, including the slow and quick march, fixing bayonets, and arms drill.

Musical accompaniment by the band of the 43rd Light Infantry.

7. Torchlight procession. Carried out by 8 N.C.O.'s and 80 recruits of the Depot.

Part I.—(*a*) Entry of Bands and Buglers of the 4th Bn. and 43rd Light Infantry. The former in the full dress uniform of 1914, the latter in that of the band of the Regiment in 1850.

(*b*) Entry of Torchbearers who performed various evolutions terminating with the Saint George's Cross.

Tableaux: Waterloo.—Two tableaux depicting the defeat of the French Imperial Guard at Waterloo by the 52nd Light Infantry, 1815.

Torchlight Procession, Part II.—Re-entry of the torch-bearers forming a fountain of torches culminating in the word "OXFORD."

8. The Pageant of Time.—A parade of Regimental uniforms of the past. Showing groups of officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.'s, bandsmen, buglers and privates in the uniforms worn by the Regiment in the following years:—1741, 1815, 1850,

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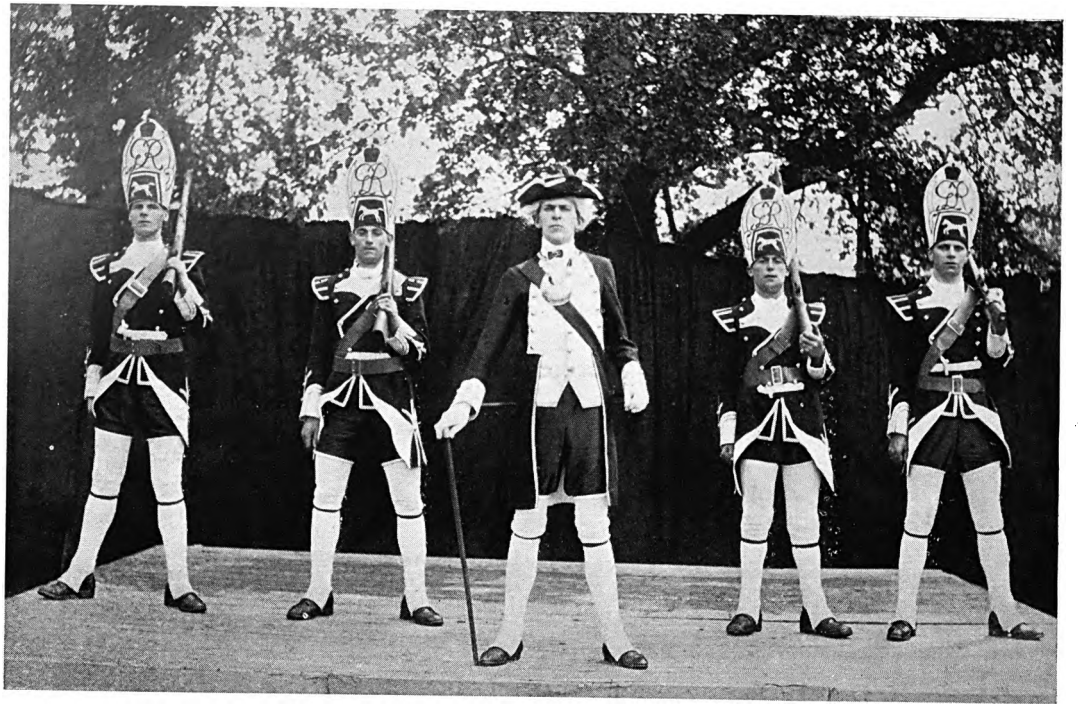

SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO AT OXFORD, 1926.

THE PAGEANT OF TIME (1741).

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1856, 1878, 1880, 1881, 1892, 1900 (S. African War), 1914 (full dress), 1914-1918 (Great War).

The bands of the 43rd Light Infantry and 4th Bn. Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry played the various groups for the March Past.

9. Grand Finale.—(*a*) Advance in slow time of the colours and escorts, bands and buglers. The Colours of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, and 1st Garrison Battalions were carried in this advance, the escorts being dressed in the uniforms worn by the Regiment since its formation to the present day.

(*b*) Advance of the 4th Battalion detachment and Depot recruits in quick time.

(*c*) Advance of the 399th Field Battery R.A. on the right of the line and armoured car on the left of the line.

(*d*) " Abide with Me " by the massed bands.

(*e*) " Last Post."

GOD SAVE THE KING.

In all, 17 officers, 8 warrant officers, 345 N.C.O.'s and men of the following units took part in the display :—

Permanent Staff of Recruits, Depot, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

399th (Oxfordshire Yeomanry) Field Battery R.A. (T.A.).

4th Battalion the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (T.A.).

Band and Buglers, 43rd Light Infantry.

Band and Buglers, 4th Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (T.A.).

Detachment 30th Fortress Company R.E., Devonport (Searchlights).

Special buses and in some cases trains were run from all parts of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, and close on 30,000 people witnessed the

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performance, of whom many attended on several nights.

I think it may safely be said that at any rate the first object was realised, thanks mainly to the wonderful luck we had in the weather. The receipts from all sources were £2,045 16s. 11½d. The expenses amounted to £1,031 9s. 8d., thus the sum of £1,014 7s. 3½d. was handed to the Regimental Association.

In addition to this, the Regimental Committee are now in possession of a number of excellent uniforms as worn in all periods of the history of the Regiment, a very useful selection of scenery, and about a hundred torches for use in future displays.

A.E.S.

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THE 52ND COLOURS

AFTER considerable delay, the ten Battle Honours awarded for the late war have arrived and the scrolls have been put on the King's Colour.

On Nonneboschen Day we had an exhibition of Regimental relics, and a sand model was prepared with accounts of the battle. The various veterans of the encounter—only six remain with the Regiment who actually charged with their Companies—were not unanimous on the details of the battle. At the same time the Colours were displayed and a short history of them was given to every man. Practically every man in the Regiment went to examine them, a thing they do not normally get the chance of doing, and we hope to have another exhibition soon. The Colours which were presented in 1868 are now in rather bad repair, especially the Regimental Colour, whose original buff has lost its colour.

Mrs. Freestun has very kindly volunteered to repair them, which will be a really tremendous work, and one for which we are very grateful. The work has already started and it was generally agreed that it would be nicer to have it done in the Regiment as a labour of love than by an outside firm.

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SHOOTING IN INDIA, 1926

Second Battalion

The opening part of this year's shooting season found us still at Razmak climbing the local hills under escort, and thinking six chakor to ten guns capital sport. However, we left for Chakrata full of hope, as we had heard great things of the shooting there. We must confess at the outset that we have been disappointed. Visions of Croxteth and Elveden flashed through our minds: Six officers of the Regiment, six shooting sticks and six score beaters putting six hundred rocketing pheasants over our heads. Alas! for the stages of sporting degradation we passed through; from our ideal to the horrible and final truth which rumoured one of our most reputable shots creeping forth at dusk with a bag of grain and an eye to the upper branches. . . . The truth is that any pheasant at Chakrata who has survived till now is cunning enough to survive for ever.

As regards big game, there is certainly enough about for an amusing small shoot, but it is just far enough away to make short leave not long enough, and just too scarce to justify two months in its pursuit. Again, in Dehra Dun, the country is too much shot out by the Gurkhas to make it possible to take a gun out in the afternoon, and farther afield the country is all blocked; moreover this year we have not done well in the Christmas draw for blocks. However, we hope that next year, now that we know people better, we

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will be more successful. Under any circumstances the Dehra Dun Jungles cannot compare with those farther south. If the shooting round Dehra Dun is not very good, the fishing certainly is, and there are miles of water round about which would be very highly rented at home, and which out here can be fished free. Nobody has got a heavy mahseer yet, but several people have their eyes on the 40 pounders round Hardwar. Richards and Conant fished fairly frequently through the summer and got some nice fish, and Barnard and Withington are busy trying to "throw a fly," to use an expression they are rather fond of.

The first bag of the season was a couple of buck that Giles got at Pachmarhi—one a twenty-five inch head, the best buck we have got so far. In March Stephens departed to Baltistan, and after some trouble in crossing the Zogi-le got three markhor and three ibex; his shoot is described elsewhere.

He was followed by Ward, who took over one of two most excellent shikaris that have been with Stephens for four shoots, and got three ibex, three sharpu, and a black bear in the Sind Valley, a very good bag for a first shoot and an excellent proof that Kashmir is really the only place where one can *learn* hill stalking. Bayley followed him in August, taking the same shikari and got three ibex and a sharpu in Baltistan, when he was recalled to go to the Depot; he would have been almost certain of getting a stag had he stayed on.

Richards and Conant followed Bayley to Cashmere, both of them motoring up in vehicles of a varying

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degree of opulence; Conant had bad luck with a red bear, a trophy he has not yet got, which ran round his tent in small circles and decamped owing to a dog barking just as he was going to shoot. Richards had some trout fishing and waxed very indignant about the poodle-faking anglers who overrun Cashmere. He also got a good stag with twelve points, on one of which I must confess one could only hang the old family ring precariously.

They in turn were followed by Portal and Mrs. John, who got two barasingh, one an excellent one of 43 inches with a 49 inch spread. So on the whole the 52nd had a very good year in Cashmere.

Meanwhile, nearer home there had been a certain amount of activity. Hughes and Metcalfe were the first two to venture into the " terra incognita " behind Chakrata, and got six gooral between them, having a very pleasant month at comparatively low cost. Richards, Conant, Yeoman and Stephens also went out for week ends, the latter losing a wounded serow, a head he particularly wanted, to his intense disgust, a disgust only comparable to Metcalfe's who missed two bear in twenty minutes. In September, Ames and the younger Horan went out for two months, and got ten gooral, a bear and a tahr. This was the best local bag and shows that there are decided possibilities near Chakrata. In Chakrata there were two noteworthy achievements: Yeoman went out one afternoon and returned in time for tea with a fine panther; this was a well-deserved success as nobody had tried harder than Yeoman for one of the frequently talked of, but seldom seen, Chakrata panthers.

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Secondly, Sergeant Carter sallied forth and with the aid of two villagers slew a fine bear. This was a well-earned bear, as Sergeant Carter had been out most days with a gun.

In August, Stephens departed on an education course at Belgaum, having heard that you could shoot elephants there. However, he did not get anything, though he had a good many amusing experiences with bison, and met a tiger five yards off when he had no rifle. October saw the beginning of the bird shooting season; various parties went out, but the expenditure of some cartridges and infinite breath could in no way justify the bags.

Battalion Training put an end to shooting in November and December, but Christmas saw various parties go out. Ward and Macleod went to Chakrata (rather a busman's holiday, we thought), and various officers went out to shoot with the Commissioner, a princely business conducted from elephants. Ward managed to hit a tiger, which was followed some miles, and he had bad luck not to get it; but nobody else did any good. Shikar in the Regiment is certainly flourishing, and now that the Shikar Fund is fully established and we have a number of keen beginners, the future seems very bright. I can assure the distinguished author of *Good Hunting* that there is not a single motor bicycle in the 52nd, and if there were the only bird on the pillion would be a Koklas or Pochard. Indeed, looking through the game book, one notices that the 52nd have already shot more head of big game, and better heads at that, than they did in the whole of their previous Indian tour, which, in these shot out and leave-bereft times, is very creditable.

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Extracts from the Game Book, 1926

Panther	..	..	..	1	Pine-marten	..	..	1
Black bear		..	..	2	Jungle fowl	..	..	8
Black buck	..	..	..	2	Peacock	..	..	3
Ibex	..	..	..	9	Snipe	..	..	26
Markhor	..	..	..	3	Pheasants (all varieties)		..	14
Tahr	..	..	..	1	Geese	..	..	2
Gooral	..	..	..	18	Duck (all varieties)		..	31
Barasingh	..	..	..	3	Teal	..	..	19
Kaykhur	..	..	..	1	Snipe	..	..	28
Trout	..	..	..	5	Sandgrouse		..	3
Sharpur	..	..	..	4	Mahseer	..	..	14
Fox	..	..	..	1	Pig	..	..	1

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HORSES AND COURSES

By Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Gerald Foljambe, D.S.O.

I joined the 43rd in Ireland in those happy days never to return when Ireland was the best schooling ground in the world for sport, both for man and beast, and also the country where you got the best value for your money—India not excepted. This was a most important point to my mind.

My first purchase was made at French Furze Fair on the Curragh, with the help of Colvile in front of whose house the fair was held. She was a little bay mare about 15.1 showing a lot of breeding, with a white rim of skin round her eyes—the price £16—quite £10 too much as she was a little devil.

She would only go when she wanted to, and only jump when she felt inclined, and this was seldom, although she was a perfect fencer when she liked.

I sold her to Roger Owen, whose wonderful temper was more suitable to her temperament than mine was.

The next venture was answering an advertisement by an officer in the A.S.C., two good sound hunters, 7 years and 5 years, £30 and £35.

I bought them, and they turned out he best value bar one I've ever had at the money.

They were both little horses, 15.2 and 15.2½, but I had about forty days hunting off one, and thirty-five off the other that season at Mullingar.

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I sold the first to a lady in Westmeath for a small profit and doubled my money on the other to a master of hounds in Yorkshire, when the Regiment was ordered to South Africa. Personally I like little horses. They do more work. In those days at Mullingar, twenty Irish miles was nothing to have to ride home.

Another thing about little horses is that they are easier to find, cheaper, and there are more good little ones than good big ones—*vide* the two year olds of 1926.

I used to run miles with my horses—and this is a good tip, especially for young and well-bred horses. Even if one only rides twelve stone, eleven stone out of the saddle is a great relief to the horse and it keeps one fit as well.

There are also plenty of times waiting at covertside when you can ease your horse like this and not even entail hard exercise on yourself when doing so.

The first part of the South African War was all hard exercise for the Infantry, and South Africa is no place for flat feet. However, later on I joined the Mounted Infantry, and collected three ponies. One was an English pony I bought from Holmes in the 19th. All three played polo very well.

On Toby, a little black Boer pony, I once very nearly got scuppered when patrolling the railway near Heilbron. Ever after if you made a spitting noise like a bullet, he was terrified.

At the end of the war, my General had a lovely black Arab on which I won a hurdle race at Kronstad. So much for South Africa.

On our return home, bank balances were on the

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right side after two-and-a-half years on the veldt. So once more I repaired to Dublin. This time I bought two very good horses from a dealer called Quin, and a four year old thoroughbred pony by Bel Demonio from Milaedy for £25. She was supposed to have been the fastest two year old on the Curragh for four furlongs, but could not get the five. She stood 15.1.

I spent my spare time at Chatham trying to make her into a polo pony. She was a tiger to take offence and a ride on her down the narrow main street of Chatham to meet the Hundred of Hoo Foxhounds was a nightmare.

However eventually she did become a good player, although I did not reap the full reward for all the trouble she had been, as I sold her to a dealer for £150, and he sold her within a fortnight for £350.

I remember, while at Chatham, going to the Depot for a day with the South Oxfordshire—being given a mount by Bayley on his most excellent mare. The meet was Clare Cross Roads, but scent was very bad if I remember aright.

It was during my leave in 1903 that I paid a visit to the dealer, Frank Wilkinson, at Cavendish Lodge, in Nottinghamshire, and saw there a little bay thoroughbred gelding, 7 years old. At least, when I say little, he *looked* little, till one stood up to him, when one discovered that he was, as a matter of fact, as near 16 hands as made no difference—and that is the best compliment that can be paid to a horse. His name was Enoch. I liked him even better when I rode him—he flew in his stride a bit of flood water lying in a field—so I arranged for a day with The

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Grove, who were meeting the next day at my uncle's place. My old uncle, for many years Master of The Burton, when he saw him immediately said that he was not up to my weight; however, I am glad that on this occasion I did not take the advice of age, or I should have missed the best horse I have ever had, or probably ever shall have.

I tried Enoch over timber that day, and he got up, as well as spread himself, but he took a very nice hold —hence the price, £75. However, to cut a long story short, I bought him, and found I had a treasure as a hunter. He would have a try at anything, and a devilish good try, too. He jumped in great style, and the faster he was going, the better he jumped—that is, of course, as long as he was in hand; but he wasn't the horse for a cramped country. I only ran him in one point-to-point that year, the open race in the point-to-point of a cavalry regiment of York—I forget which it was. He ought, I imagine, to have won it in a trot, instead of being fourth, but in those days my experience was nil. However, that was the start of his education of me as a race-rider, and he did it most thoroughly before he was through with it, winning six steeplechases and five point-to-points, besides being second very often and out of very few starts.

Unfortunately, in the summer of 1904, I had to go to India, on being promoted into the 43rd, after having exchanged into the 52nd, who had just come home; so I was properly done. I lent Enoch to a friend in Ireland, and set out with rather a heavy heart.

As regards horses, my chief remembrance of India is the Arab stable at Bombay. I bought four there,

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and all turned out well, one winning the Army Cup for his owner, I believe, the year after I left India.

Besides the Arabs, I also had three walers, 2 ponies and a horse. The horse was a discard of the Bombay bodyguard. If not noted for his good looks, he was, at least, memorable for his vile temper; he was an absolute savage in the stable. I once rode him with the Bombay Hounds, when, jumping a little wall, we found an impossible stony nullah just beyond, into which we collapsed. I was knocked out, and cut my head pretty badly, but funnily enough the horse never offered to savage me.

Although this particular horse was quite a good ride and jumper, I did not care for walers, and I remember at that time had great ideas of getting out English ponies and selling them. Now the English invasion is an accomplished fact, so I probably missed getting in on the ground floor in a good gamble. I believe that most of the racehorses are now English, so apparently other people share my views of the waler.

I had one country-bred in India, which I bought up at Sabathu—where, I remember, we used to have great games of polo, three a side, on the parade ground. This pony was rather remarkable; as far as I recollect she required no teaching at all, and was, as it were, by nature quite a good player; but she was a nasty-tempered brute in the stable, except with her syce.

I only rode in one race in India, a five-furlong flat, which I won on a pony belonging to a Chief in Kathiawar. I was fortunate, as I beat a hot favourite, ridden by a soldier-jockey, who was in much request in those days. I slipped him at the start, and was never caught.

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So much for India.

In 1905, I succeeded Holmes of the 19th as Adjutant of their 3rd Battalion at Richmond, Yorks. Of course, I had always wanted to get to our Depot, but something had always interfered with my plans, and it never came off. However, I found Richmond a most delightful place, with charming people living round about, and, what was even more important, one could get as much hunting as one wanted, besides racing and polo in the summer.

I do not think I shall ever forget my first day with The Zetland—a howling gale, pouring rain and thick fog—fortunately a very rare combination. I remember that, when the Secretary, H. Straker, was pointed out to me, I thought he looked a very savage man, little knowing that we were to become great friends later on. At that time Lord Zetland was Master and Champion the huntsman—the latter had a habit of getting away with three couple or less of hounds, and letting the rest look after themselves. He showed wonderful sport—but at that time he was done; his health being very bad. The Champion family have been responsible for many good hunt servants.

Besides the Zetland, we had the Bedale, whose huntsman was Frank Freeman, who went to the Pytchley at the end of the season and still is there. His fame is well known, and I was lucky to have the best huntsman of my lifetime so close. The Bedale, unlike the Zetland, was very short of foxes and full of wire. Very funny that two adjoining countries should be the opposite extremes. That year, by about Christmas, one could count the foxes in the Bedale Friday country on one's fingers, and one by one

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Freeman mopped them up. He was a marvel, often he would hunt one fox all day and kill him at dark. Peter Farelly, now huntsman of the Meynell, followed him; he was good, but not in the same street as Freeman. Both these men were beautiful horsemen. Freeman seemed to ignore the fences, never taking his eye off hounds.

Bar Enoch, I had bad horses that year, and Enoch was too good for that country, as the Zetland, though a wonderful sporting country, with delightful farmers, and practically no wire, was not, in my opinion, a pleasant country to ride over. It was not really a flying country, but more suited to the heavy man and horse who prefer to jump into, rather than over, their fences. In fact, it was this that proved the cause of poor Enoch splitting his pastern in 1910. One day a thruster from Northumberland had come to cut us all down. During a bit of a gallop out by Pierce Bridge, we came to what looked a beast of a place, the sort of place there might be anything beyond and nowhere definite to take off. However, seeing a spot that might be feasible, I had a cut at it. Enoch did all he knew, but as he landed he split his pastern, though he never fell. I had a job to get the poor little chap to a farm, where he was for three weeks in plaster of paris. However, he recovered all right, and was none the worse afterwards.

To return to 1906 I won the Bedale Hunt Cup on Enoch, and a rather curious incident occurred in the race. In the last field but one there was a flag, to bring the runners square at the last fence. As we came to it I was lying third and the two in front of me, instead of going round it, went straight to the fence.

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One of them ran out, but the other, Kit Cradock, won the race very easily. So, after we had weighed, I went up to him and asked him why he had missed the flag. I said I thought he would have won anyway, but not so easily. Being rather quick-tempered, he flew into a rage, and wanted to know what the devil I meant. Well, I was quick-tempered, too. I said, "All right, I'll object, and then you'll soon see what I mean." I did object, and the race was awarded me.

As we were staying in the same house, things might have been decidedly awkward! However, I am glad to say the evening passed off peacefully, and next time I saw Cradock, we quite made it up; in fact, he said it was lucky that I had objected, as, since then, he had discovered that his horse had won at an illegal meeting in Ireland. Cradock was one of the very best men over a country, always full of that gallantry which he showed to the last when going to his death, taking on impossible odds against Von Spee off Coronel.

I won the 18th Hussars Open Race at York that season, too, on Enoch easily.

The following summer, we had some delightful polo at Catterick, one of the best grounds in the country. I remember I had two ponies, one a star performer called Pigeon, and a young pony which I bought from old Billy Grant, late huntsman to Lord Middleton. Old Grant was one of Nature's gentlemen. He could neither read nor write—his wife did all his correspondence—but what he did not know about foxes was not worth knowing; I think I would sooner ride home from a hunt with him than anyone on earth.

Next season, that is 1906-7, Enoch was again my

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"Enoch" Leading in a Point-to-Point Race.

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standby. About this time I used to go and ride for a farmer called Marton in the Sinnington country, a very sporting country, and a nice country to ride over, but rather spoilt by the rivers which are only passable at bridges and fords. Marton's horses were good ones to go, but I must own they usually had bad mouths, owing to his sons having bad hands! However, I bought two from him, one very sporting-looking grey with a short tail—a real good horse when he liked, but when he *didn't*, the most superb kicker I have ever met. I remember once on him trying to jump on to a railway—I suppose he didn't like the rails or something; anyway, I was left trying not to be kicked off. Eventually I sold him well, so what matter?

Another of Marton's horses I bought was the hardest puller I ever rode, and I also tried to buy her brother, a very good horse called "First Flight." I had seen some real good hunts on this horse, and although the price was a terribly big one, for me—£150—I decided to go a bust. Then, after everything was settled, I got a letter from Marton, asking me to let him off, as he had got a better offer. I agreed, but, unfortunately for Marton, the deal never materialized, for the horse was spun for his wind. So, as it turned out, it was an escape for me, as I would have taken the horse without examination, thinking that the tests I had put him to up the steep hillsides bordering the moors, were better than any vet.

It was on this horse that I won the Open Farmers' Race at the Bedale Point-to-Point that year, riding for Marton. I was lucky at that meeting, as I had another ride on a very good mare of Bob Bourke's—uncle of

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Ulick Bourke—and won, after a desperate race in which one poor fellow, Forster by name, was killed. Four of us came down at the fence three from home, a nasty dammed-up ditch full of water, where there was really not room for four. I was on the inside, and got a proper bump, losing a stirrup. Forster was next but one to me, and as he fell, the horse struck his head in some way, so that he never recovered consciousness. Except for the fence above-mentioned this course was a good one, but it suffered from a fault which point-to-point courses are far too often prone to, namely, the last fence was cut down to nothing, making it practically only a few thorns laid on the take-off side of a ditch. The last fence in a course ought to *look* black anyway. It should not be too solid so as to knock a tired horse over, but there must be enough in it to make a horse jump. By the way, I bicycled to that point-to-point twelve miles from Richmond, and then another twelve or so to Northallerton, to catch a train; the memory makes me wonder how many riders nowadays would be willing to take it on?

The next year, 1907-8, I kept my horses at home in Lord Middleton's country, and had the best season's sport I have ever seen, or shall ever see; Leaf was then huntsman, and it did not seem to matter in what country we were—on the wolds, in the vale or woods —we had sport every day. Leaf was very quick; perhaps not such an artist as Frank Freeman, but his hounds loved him and flew to him. Besides, he was very well mounted, and took a lot of catching.

That year was a red letter year, as I had four extraordinarily good horses, too. In addition to

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Enoch, I had a chestnut which I had bought from Marton, and two thoroughbred horses I had picked up in Ireland. One of these I bought at an auction in Dublin. I found out after it was knocked down to me at 57 guineas that the owner, whom I knew, sold it because he thought it was wrong in its wind. So I, having rushed in where angels fear to tread, felt very miserable. However, luck was with me, as he was a lovely ride and a good hunter and I sold him to a dealer for £150 at the end of the season sound in every way; but the dealer, before selling him to a rich man for £350, galloped him with a useful horse which he beat. So if you have a horse that can win, it is a pity not to let him earn a bit, but, as a rule, I went on the principle of "hunting first, racing second"; and I think, in the long run, it is best. It was really for this reason that Enoch was so little raced till 1912, that is, until he was 15 years old. I was then at Aldershot, where there was next to no hunting.

To revert to my four horses of 1907. The other Irish horse I had was a little bay thoroughbred by "The Dale." He had belonged to a friend of mine in Ireland, who did not, as a rule, care to ride thoroughbreds. One day we went out for a ride together, and, on starting out, as he got on to this little horse, he said he would take a pony for it. Presently, as I watched him galloping, I realized it was one of the best movers I had ever seen. Then I made a stupid mistake. I got on to the horse myself. My friend, who had never seen anyone else on the horse, now, for the first time, sat up and took notice, with the consequence that when I tried to clinch the bargain at

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a pony, he put the price up to £45 ! However, the deal was effected, and that spring he beat Enoch in a trial on the flat—though I am afraid it was not a very reliable one. Nevertheless I thought it was good enough, and quite expected to win " Peter Walker's Bangle " at the Meynell Point-to-Point—at that time this race was supposed to be the best point-to-point to win in England. But about a week before the date, he was found crippled in his box, having got cast. Later, he recovered to a certain extent, but never did great things. Enoch took his place in the race, and ran fourth—so the lady did not get the bangle. A lady had to nominate you, and she got the bangle if you won.

Enoch's string-halt was now getting worse, and I discovered that on a right hand course he was quite a stone better. I imagine this was due to the fact that on a right-hand course the string halt leg (the off hind) had less to do. The Meynell Course was a left-hand one, or otherwise I think Enoch would have done better.

I think it was that spring that I rode a horse for a farmer in the Zetland Point-to-Point, a gentleman who was supposed to be pretty warm, and had a genius for getting the money on at point-to-points. As a rule he rode himself, and I never stopped to wonder why he did not on this occasion, though he said the horse was sure to win. The course, I remember, was up in the Durham country, and I bicycled about fifteen miles, and was, in consequence of not knowing quite where it was so late that I only had a sketchy look at the course. My friend, having put me up on the horse, seemed remarkably fussy, and was very par-

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ticular that I should keep the horse walking up and down till the flag fell—I could not make it out at the time, but no doubt it was due to the fact (as I discovered afterwards) that the horse had frequently put both him and all his men on the floor! Mercifully, on this occasion he never winked an eye, and won very easily.

Enoch's only other race that season was in the Holderness Point-to-Point, again a left-handed course, and here he bumped up against a very good horse, "Deltric," who afterwards became a very useful steeplechase horse. On this occasion, he was ridden by his owner, Riley Wright, a great character, always excitable, and sometimes, is now, sufficiently primed! Deltric jumped the last fence on the skew, and gave me a proper punch, from which I could not recover, and was beaten by half-a-length. The spectators were so excited, that they just gave room, and no more, for our two horses to gallop up the straight.

It was on Prince Rupert, a horse I had bought from Marton, that I had an unpleasant experience within the York and Ainsty Open Race. We established a big lead, and coming down to the Rufforth Drain—"a big old hole," as they say in Yorkshire, I was a field in front. Galloping at it, there looked to be nothing except level field, but, as a matter of fact, it is very deep; deep enough to hide man and horse. Prince Rupert suddenly saw this chasm in front of him, and scotched. He jumped, but dropped his hind legs, knocking, as I thought, all the wind out of him, for, as we went on, I heard the most awful sort of death rattle in his throat, and felt he might fall any minute. However, we hadn't far to go, and, though we were caught, he stood up and finished second.

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He did exactly the same in a race at the Holderness, only this time there was no chasm! He simply started this death rattle in the middle of a field, after I had given him an easy; we were so far in front that I thought, bar a fall, the race was ours. Once more he was second, and unlucky at that, for the winner was virtually down at the last fence, but made a marvellous recovery; indeed, it was really a great performance, as the rider was over sixty—Henry Cholmondeley, who manages the Sledmere Stud.

In April, 1908, I chopped Prince Rupert for two polo ponies (he passed the vet—another mystery!). One of these was a smasher, but took a bit of fingering; the other an absolute dud—what they call a beginner's pony; but this one knew a bit too much, and generally turned before, instead of after, hitting a backhander.

We had most enjoyable polo at Catterick, two lovely grounds, and just enough players; but every year they got fewer, and three years after there was no polo, which has happened in so many country clubs.

The hunting season 1908-9 was a very poor one compared to the last as regards sport. George Leaf had gone as huntsman to the Quorn, where he was a great success, and Bishop had taken his place, a very nice man, but hounds would not come to him. I hunted that year up to Christmas from home, and after from Richmond.

My stud was not good, as I'd disposed of three and only old Enoch was left. So I had gone over to Ireland to Charlie Read's in Wexford. He it was who, when "God Save the King" was being played, smashed in a fellow's hat, because still on his head,

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and when asked what the . . . who the . . . etc., all he said was " I'm Charlie Read of Wexford."

I bought three horses off him, and none turned out well. Two were, I think, good ones; but one knocked his head on the boat coming over, and had a bee in his bonnet ever after. The other went lame behind and the seat of it was never discovered. He could put anyone down when he liked, but luckily seldom tried, being of a charming disposition. He was one of my greatest disappointments. The third was just a good, strong, little two-day-a-weeker. All three were thoroughbreds. If my luck was out as regards hunting that year, it was in as regards racing in 1909. The Zetland Point-to-Point was the first, the day before the Bedale, where I had entered Enoch. My same farmer friend had asked me to ride three horses at the Zetland, but I had promised to ride one for a lady—which I rather regretted, as this entailed losing the best mount of the three. I bicycled to the course, about five miles from Richmond, up a terrible long hill, and was rather late, which this time cost me a race, as I had to miss the last two fences in walking round.

The first race was the Open Farmers' Race, and when I arrived at the post, one of them rode up to me and said " I am going to do for you." I could see he was very tight, so I went up to the starter, Straker, and told him I did not think this farmer was fit to ride, with which he agreed, and ordered him off. He and his brother were farmers who rather farmed local point-to-points, and were terribly upset afterwards, and apologized profusely to Straker, but I believe they objected to my riding in farmers' races, and I

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quite see their point, which was, as they rode their own, why could not the others do so. Although my friend was gone, I had a most horrible ride, a one-sided mouthed brute. Fit though I was, if I remember right, when I came in, I had to send for the bridle to draw the weight, so I'd lost at least 1 lb. during the race. When we came to the last fence but three, the only other horse left in with a chance made a bad blunder, so I went on to the two fences I hadn't looked at. When I got near the first, I found far the biggest obstacle we'd met, and this brute having tried to run out at every fence all way round, did so and ran me under a bullfinch. Judge of my chagrin to see the other horse going up on my left, and popping over a tiny place, a made-up gateway. He got such a lead there wasn't time to catch him. As mine started at 2 to 1 on, I was not popular, as I found out when bicycling home later on, an old woman wanted to know what I'd been doing, and was very rude. I suppose she'd had a shilling on.

The next race, the Hunt Cup, I rode Mrs. Cobbett's Birdsall, a little chestnut, that had been bred by a farmer near my home. There were some pretty useful horses in it, and certainly four of them should have beaten Birdsall. At the second fence, a stone wall, the animal I should have ridden if I hadn't promised to ride Birdsall, gave his owner a fall, but I didn't see it, as I was making the running. About half a mile from home there were quite three horses bound to beat me. One of these fell into the lane, hurting his owner and incidentally giving me a winning ride next day. As we came at the last fence, the two horses beating me were joined by the re-

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mounted tumbler at the stone wall. He couldn't get round the last flag, as his rider was so beat, and after a desperate finish and ignoring the last fence, Birdsall won by a neck. Mrs. Cobbett could not bear the excitement, so stayed at home and sent her butler to see the race. When he came home he made her furious, as she was delighted and said what a good little horse Birdsall was; his only comment was, "Oh, the Captain would win on a cow." So that made up for the defeat in the first race. The third and last race was the Zetland Farmers' Race. When I saw my mount, I was furious and refused to ride: a short-tailed, common-looking grey. However, I knew this man was pretty clever, and he said it was sure to win. This it did, very comfortably. I knew that course pretty well by the end of the day.

The next day was the Bedale Point-to-Point, which also turned out to be a good course, but rather bigger than the Zetland. It, however, had the usual Bedale last fence—this time a blind boggy ditch to you, and only one place to jump it. Luckily in both my races there was no close finish. I got a wire asking me to ride Donegal II, a roan horse that had fallen in Birdsall's race the day before. I had two very nice rides, leading the whole way in each race and winning comfortably.

Enoch won the Rufford Open Point-to-Point in Nottinghamshire that year very easily.

Just after that, Enoch was entered in a Hunters' Steeplechase at Carlisle. To this day, I have regretted not putting my shirt on him, but I remember I thought I'd be so pleased at winning, and if I backed him it would bring bad luck, so I never had a shilling on him.

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He started at 7 to 1, and won in a trot. They were a bad lot, which made it all the more foolish of me.

I ran Enoch at Shincliffe in May in another hunters' chase, and got hauled up in front of the stewards for foul riding. It happened in this way. We were coming round the last bend, which was marked by a lot of small posts. I was lying about half a length behind, but almost touching another horse. This horse was hanging in and eventually missed two posts. He won the race. I knew the owner of the second, a poor little trainer who was on his beam-ends, so said to him you can get the race if you object, which he did. The owner of the disqualified horse then had me up for putting his horse over the rails! I said, it is impossible to ride a horse off if you are half a length behind. In the end I was let go without a stain on my character. Next day I won a hurdle race for one of the stewards there. He was a horse called Nebheugh, that would not always put it all in. However, he did this time, and came out to win cleverly, but I never used the whip, only rode him with my hands.

Enoch again ran in the Meynell Point-to-Point, but was only second, though the third, Nimble Kate, won the National Hunt Steeplechase afterwards.

The day before the Meynell, I rode a horse of Colvile's called Irving, in Lord Harrington's Point-to-Point, running third, I think. He had been a very good horse, but had turned rogue. It was rather a fine course, in those days—up and down hill—and I rather think was the first where a lady's race was run. Old Lord Harrington, a grand old sportsman, used to handicap them by distance.

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Polo in summer of 1909 at Catterick was on the decline, only just sufficient for a game, and not always that. Having no ponies of my own, I was mounted a good deal, but mostly on raw green ponies.

At the end of July, we spent our honeymoon on Exmoor, taking down a horse each; a good plan, as useful on off days to ride about on, though I believe most people hire. Lovely country and great fun, but we had no sport as heat was so intense, and the flies and dust in narrow lanes are a great drawback.

Season 1909-10, I spent at Richmond. Nothing outstanding in the way of sport, that I remember, and, in the spring of 1910, poor old Enoch split a pastern, which I have already mentioned.

The only point-to-point I can remember that year was an unsuccessful ride on Charlie Read's little plodder, as I was fool enough to try and cut a corner, though I knew I was not on the boldest of the bold, and he stopped with me at an awkward place out of a narrow lane. I believe I rode Colvile's old Irving again this time in the Rufford Point-to-Point; he was second, beaten by a horse that I thought had fallen over a flight of rails early on. The Rufford course in those days had, what I think every point-to-point course should have, a post and rails; in fact three flights and an open brook.

No polo for the married! and in November, 1910, my time at Richmond was up, and I rejoined the 52nd under Fanshawe at Shorncliffe.

(*To be concluded.*)

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GOOD SHOOTING

By Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Ruck-Keene, D.S.O., O.B.E.

If I were asked the order in which I should place my love of sport the answer would be: 1, Fox-hunting; 2, Shooting; 3, Fishing; and as I have dealt already with the first-named, I am presuming to give some of my experiences in Sport No. 2 in the hope that they may interest some of the readers of the Chronicle.

I began my shooting career at the early age of ten, when my two brothers and I used to wage war against rabbits, wood-pigeons and so forth, but, as game licences were not provided, we were *supposed* not to kill pheasants or partridges. I fear this rule was more honoured in the breach than in the observance! I recollect one season, many years ago, when there had been a very hard winter, and it had been impossible to take sufficient toll of the partridges at my old home in Oxfordshire, "the guv'nor" gave orders that the birds must be thinned out somehow to prevent over-stocking in the following season. The snow lay some six inches deep when we three boys sallied forth with our guns and after some wandering about we spotted a good covey of partridges in a small triangular field. Our plans were speedily made and we advanced cautiously from the three sides of the field and, at a given signal from the eldest brother-conspirator, let go into the unsuspecting covey. Result—no less than nine partridges weltering in their gore as the

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deed of three barrels. " Murder most foul, base and unnatural " I remember the old days when my brothers and I used to assemble of an evening in a cold gun-room (the only place where we were allowed to smoke) and there, pipes in mouths, would fill our own cartridges. A pudding-dish of black gunpowder on one side, another full of shot on the other and a turning-over machine clamped to the table—there would we sit like the three witches in *Macbeth* with our 'baccy all aglow and why on earth we were not all blown up, goodness only knows. To the best of my recollection, the first shot fired by me was at an empty bottle stuck up on a post by my two brothers after an unsuccessful day's ferreting for rats. I must here make the confession that previous to this event I was most hopelessly gun-shy, and have a faint recollection of being led out at an early age to watch a shoot near my old home and being dragged home weeping bitterly by my nurse or governess. Incidentally the first shot fired from a rifle by me was when, as a recruit in The Winchester Volunteers, I was armed with a Snider, and taken to the range to fire my recruit's course. Lord, how those antique weapons could kick! On this occasion I adopted the kneeling position, shut both eyes and pulled the trigger with the result that I went end-over-end backwards. All the same, later experiences showed that I was not the only pebble on the beach in this respect, for I remember many occasions when recruits—nay even officers—were frightened to death on having to fire a rifle. I speak of the days of the old " Martini-Henri," which could kick good and strong and I had a large bruise on my right shoulder after firing my recruit's course

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under Lamotte. But it is not of rifle-shooting that I propose to write; my theme is concerned more with matters connected with the "scatter-gun." One of my first guns was a pin-fire single-barrel weapon which I recollect had one distinct drawback, in that if you dropped a cartridge on a brick or other hard floor and it landed on the pin itself, it had an unpleasant knack of going off. Accompanied by a miscellaneous pack of terriers and an odd spaniel or two, we three brothers, during our holidays, used to account for great quantities of rabbits and wood-pigeons both of which abounded at my old home on the Chilterns. Our guide, philosopher, and friend was the old head-keeper, Turgis, who only died a year or so ago at the age of 88; a rare old character whose sayings and exploits will never cease to be remembered by me. I recollect how in the old days when I was allowed to accompany my father and brothers in walking up partridges over the chalky hills, generally devoid of all cover, old Turgis and the guv'nor used at times to hold a council of war and the wily old keeper would put in the suggestion—"Ow'd be, Colonel, if the young gennelmen was to take a wide be-at over them vollers (fallows) and you and I was to stop 'ere and *mark*?" Carried unanimously, though if a secret ballot had been taken, the result might have been far, far different. One of us possessed a pedometer in those times, and it was calculated that in a day's walking after partridges we seldom, if ever, covered less han 16 to 18 miles. Thank goodness the practice of driving came into vogue later! One more episode of my boyhood's days and I have done. One winter an appalling outbreak of mange among foxes

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occurred, and so terrible was the menace to fox-hunting, that the then Master of the South Oxfordshire Hounds, the Earl of Macclesfield, issued instructions that many foxes were to be destroyed ruthlessly and all fox-earths dug up and done away with. No less than 21 diseased foxes were killed on my father's estate alone, and so virulent was the plague that on one occasion the place against which a mangy fox's mask flapped from the whipper-in's saddle was bare on his horse for a month. A mangy fox having been "harboured" near a pond at our old place, we three brothers, accompanied by a pack of some four terriers, and an ancient spaniel, proceeded thither fully armed one afternoon and the "varmint" was roused from his lair. By faulty staff-work, the fox got away with a long lead, but the trio let fly at him at long range, and the pack set forth in pursuit, we following as best we could up a very long and steep hill to the top of the park where, in a long-disused chalk-pit, we discovered the "hounds" worrying the fox for all they were worth. The wretched animal (which was quite devoid of hair all along the back and had a caudal appendage like a whip) was soon despatched, and the remains buried. Every single one of the terriers and the spaniel were badly infected with mange a week after, but recovered eventually, but the disease spread to our ferrets and we lost the whole lot, some 12 in number. Subsequently we even went so far as to have regular fox-drives and I remember one of my brothers bowling over a fox out of a field of standing barley. So it was that we, the most ardent of fox-hunters and the sons of one of the hardest and best men to hounds, became accessories after the fact in

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that most heinous of all crimes, vulpicism. It is perhaps worthy of record that these and similar drastic operations put a stop effectually to further outbreaks of that dreadful disease.

In 1889, the 43rd were stationed at Parkhurst Barracks, Isle of Wight, and we rented from the Crown the right of shooting in Parkhurst Forest, a huge woodland covering many a hundred acres. Our present Colonel of the Regiment (then Captain commanding " C " Company of Her Majesty's 43rd Light Infantry), was appointed High Verderer (or whatever the title may have been), and by virtue of this exalted appointment received an imposing document surmounted by the Royal Arms, which ran somewhat as follows :—" Victoria by the Grace of God and so forth—know ye all that our trusty and well-beloved J. Hanbury-Williams, a Captain in our 43rd or 1st Battalion of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, is hereby appointed Chief Verderer (or what not) over Our Forest of Parkhurst in the Isle of Wight, etc., etc." Further, I think I am right in saying that we were not allowed to take game or deer by the use of sprynges, trappes and so forth, but as it is nearly forty years ago, I really can't recall the actual wording of the Royal Proclamation. Stanton, who was a dab hand at topography, evolved from his mighty brain a map showing the Forest divided into several beats, the idea being that certain parties of officers should be detailed for one or other of these beats in rotation. Colour-Sergeant Breese, a shikari of renown, was appointed head game-keeper and everything in the garden was lovely *except* for the fact that there was nothing to shoot at ! I recall an instance when the total bag for

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the day was one *mole*, shot by Newton-King! On another occasion I was posted close to a huge holly-tree and happening to look under the foliage, I observed in the darkness of the shade a pair of bright little eyes staring at me. I shot promptly at whatever it might be and lo, it was a woodcock. An example of the danger of carelessness in the handling of guns may here be quoted as a warning to young shooters. After the usual unsuccessful morning in the Forest, we came back to lunch in the Mess when a certain officer (unfortunately he is dead now, and so his name shall not be mentioned), left his gun on a table in the passage fully loaded. At that time our Mess Sergeant was Sergeant Bate who, in spite of a very rotund figure, was a very fine rifle-shot and so naturally was interested in every sort of fire-arm, besides being of a somewhat inquisitive nature. Noticing this gun lying on the table, old Bate must needs take it up and " go through the motions " of firing it off. Result, a most terrific bang and considerable alarm and despondency among the officers, but most fortunately no one was hurt. In 1890 I was apparently considered too ' newly-joined " to be entitled to any long leave, and so, with he exception of one or two most indifferent shoots in the neighbourhood of Marchwood on Southampton Water, there is nothing to record. I seem however, to have " scrounged " a few days' leave in November of that year, for I find that shooting at my old home on the Oxfordshire Chilterns we shot in three days 148 pheasants, 42 hares, 3 partridges, 400 rabbits, and 5 various—a total of 603 head. In the final drive of the last day, I peppered a beater, through no fault of my own, as the man had got right out of

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the line; I also shot at a fox, thinking it was a hare, but, thank goodness, missed it. In the following year I started a shooting-journal, and also obtained first leave, which, I may remind officers, is a privilege and not a right! Apparently I wangled a spot of leave prior to October 15, on which long leave used to commence in those good old days, for I find that on September 15, 16, 17, and 18, I was shooting in Cambridgeshire, where my family still owned a property at Linton, some ten miles from the University town. I have often thought since that walking up partridges on this estate was carried out on exemplary lines. We, that is, my two brothers and the writer, would walk religiously for miles in the course of a morning, lunch heavily at the house of one of the tenant-farmers and carry on with the snapping during the afternoon and it was perhaps fortunate that we indulged in such a quantity of exercise, for the following reason. After walking many miles our conductor, usually one of the tenants, would direct us to beat in quite a contrary direction to that in which we were going, when up from behind a hedge would spring a boy with a small barrel of beer slung round his shoulders and some half-dozen horns in his pockets and as this sort of thing happened frequently during the day, one needed to be young to survive the ordeal. The tenants were of a rare good old Yeoman stock who, however, seldom paid their rents with regularity; on one occasion when lunching with one of them we were waited on by a footman in livery! My eldest brother happened to take a box at Epsom one year for the Derby, and on looking into the next box to his discovered that the tenant was one of his Cambridgeshire farmers

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who had paid no rent for at least four years. Our fraternal trio put up at a most comfortable inn at Cambridge and in the evenings played baccarat, then all the rage, but I don't think any large sums were either lost or won by any of us. While on long leave, I used to rent some shooting on a spur of the Chilterns and got a lot of fun out of it, chiefly by ferreting rabbits but, Lord, the digs we used to have sometimes in the chalk after recalcitrant bunnies and ferrets! The cult of the rabbit was very much in evidence in those days, and I often regret that this form of sport seems to have died out so much nowadays, for, to my mind, it is very hard to beat the bunny walked up in line or crossing a narrow ride for all he is worth. During my long leave in the above-mentioned season, I took part in the shooting of 268 partridges, 400 pheasants, 8 woodcock, 8 snipe, 19 wood-pigeons, 270 hares and 2,501 rabbits. On my own little shoot I accounted for 1 partridge, 1 snipe, 7 hares, and 230 rabbits or 239 head. I shot on 46 days and half-days, and the average worked out at 75.2 head. The total bag came to 3,467 head. I find a record for September 12 of the following season, when Charles Cuyler and I were staying with the Colonel of the Regiment, who was then Adjutant of the Bucks Militia and lived at Radnage, near West Wycombe. We three went out after lunch over " the preserves " and slew 1 partridge and 1 hare—total bag 2! A fairly useful bag is recorded on October 30 when, at my old home, 8 guns accounted for 34 pheasants, 2 partridges, 30 hares, 4 wood-pigeons and 247 rabbits, a total of 317 head. During that season I assisted at the killing of 2,246 head of game of which 166 were partridges, 389 pheasants,

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96 hares, and 1,574 rabbits. Off my own shoot I killed 263 head. Shooting on 42 occasions, the average came to 53.4 head. I find a few entries in the early days of 1893 such as February 9, when "Rabbit" Hamilton, Napier, Stanhope, and I shot over Kinsale Junction bogs and killed 5 snipe and a wild duck. Again on February 16, Strachan, Napier, and I had a long trudge over the same bogs with the meagre result of 3 snipe; nevertheless we were "on the carpet" in orderly-room not long after on account of a most indignant letter having been received by the Colonel from one James Payne, J.P. (or as he would have probably pronounced it, Jay Pay) who claimed that he was the owner of the bogs and that we had no right to shoot over them. I dare say the worthy gentleman was quite right, but we had been conducted thither by a local sportsman (probably a poacher); however ample apologies on our part would appear to have settled the case. October 24, furnished a fairly heavy bag at my old home, when seven guns killed 490 head, which the pick-up subsequently made up to 521 of which 424 were rabbits. Another good day was November 7, when at Crowsley Park, near Henley, seven guns killed in a short day, 502 head, of which 471 were rabbits. The amusing part of this day was that after the light had become too bad for shooting, the bracken in the park was beaten through and we shot white rabbits crossing the rides. Many are the stories told about the late owner of Crowsley Park who only quite recently joined the great majority at the grand old age of 86. On one occasion it used to be related that after one of his big days, the total was found to be 999 head, on hearing which the

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Colonel proceeded to his wife's aviary and there shot an Amherst pheasant to make the bag up to 1,000. At the end of another day, his guests were assembled in the smoking-room, having a final drink before departure, when the butler appeared bringing the list of game shot that day. One of the guns asked for the total, whereupon the Colonel replied "650 head (sniff); I think old David (his head-keeper) is worth a sovereign." A bit awkward for those who had thought to get off with a ten-bob tip! On another occasion this gallant old sportsman was scored off rather badly when, late in the season, he issued the edict "to shoot anything that got up." The proceedings on that day started by the guns walking in line with the beaters, setting forth from the outbuildings of the house itself and hardly had a hundred yards been covered before bang! bang! rang out, followed by a series of most horrible squeals. It soon transpired that a certain well-known character in the Thames Valley had chosen to take the Colonel at his word, and had let go both barrels at a Berkshire sow which was roaming the beech-woods in search of acorns. Tableau! The old man used to take a delight in asking to shoot on a Friday a composer of songs who had become a brother-in-law by running away with the Colonel's sister. Well knowing M—— to be a Roman Catholic the wicked old ex-Hussar would order an extra-special lunch (and they were always of the best at Crowsley), and would then exclaim, "By Gad, M—— old boy, dashed if I hadn't clean forgotten that this was one of your fast-days!" the result being that the unfortunate M—— was left with little more than bread and butter, with which to

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appease his appetite. Between February 27, 1895, and February 28, 1896, I took part in the killing of 4,832 head of game, of which 366 were partridges, 779 pheasants, 356 hares, and 3,245 rabbits. Off my little shoot at home I got 379 head and Brasenose Wood yielded 26 pheasants, 1 partridge, 2 woodcock, and 3 various, or 36 head. I find that my guests at the last-mentioned "battues" were Barton, Lethbridge, Cobb, Watt, Colonel Kingscote, Luard, and Barrington. In September of the following year, I paid another visit to Scotland, but it was a bad grouse year, and the bags were small. A typical Highland bag was that of September 29, when three of us killed during the morning, 1 grouse, 2 blackcock, 1 roe-deer, 13 partridges, 1 wood pigeon, 4 hares, 4 rabbits, and 2 golden plover. My host being very anxious to make up his 1,000 brace of grouse, persuaded myself and another of the guns to stay till the middle of October, but a heavy fall of snow and biting winds prevented all pleasure in shooting and as a result I had a very nasty little bout of pneumonia, and was lucky to survive. Five hundred and fifty-three head was a useful bag on November 24, and included 60 pheasants and 482 rabbits and 352 head during a morning's shooting only kept our guns warm on December 2. On December 8, 8 guns killed 467 head—60 cock pheasants and 400 rabbits—but the record was at Studley Priory on January 9, 1897, when 9 guns accounted for 61 cock pheasant, 525 rabbits, and 7 jays or a total of 593 head of game. Yet another big bag is recorded on January 27, when 9 guns killed 582 head, which was all the more remarkable in view of the fact that it was the third time through these particular

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coverts, and the snow lay thick on the ground. From June 24, 1896, to March 30, 1897, I shot on 104 days, and took part in the kill ng of 202 grouse, 7 blackcock, 298 partridges, 521 pheasants, 317 hares, 4,264 rabbits, etc.—a total of 5,800 head.

I was unable to secure my old shoot at home the following season, but the then owner of Shotover Hill very kindly gave me the shooting rights over it and it yielded 315 head, mostly bunnies. My two most ardent "keepers" were Private Launchbury, a famous regimental cricketer in those days, and Private "Jack" Haydon, still, I'm glad to say, going strong and given to making a considerable amount of noise at the Old Comrades' reunions. Brasenose Wood produced a total of 53 head of which 35 were pheasants. Another visit to Aberdeenshire in September, 1897, resulted in a bag of 646 grouse and a total of 790 head in six days. Notable days during this season were November 3, when 7 guns, shooting at a place near Oxford, killed 454 head of which 415 were rabbits. Seven of us killed 401 head at "Squeaker" Scott-Murray's place near Henley, 295 of the total being pheasants. This particular shoot was always a most enjoyable one, for the birds in nearly every case were real tall ones, and took a lot of killing. A certain very celebrated Lord was one of the guns on this occasion, and it was a treat to see him kill his birds, stone-dead every time, but I'm bound to say that his lordship was in the habit of picking his birds, and if a particularly nasty one came within shot of him, he would shout to his next-door neighbour, "Yours, Sir!" Two fairly hefty days were November 16 and 17, both within six miles of Oxford; on the former

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day, 8 guns killed 498 head, and on the latter 754, of which 153 were pheasants and the remainder rabbits. Another useful day was November 20 when, shooting at Shirburn Castle, seven guns killed 444 head, 381 being rabbits. Altogether this was a first-class season, though ruinous in the expenditure of cartridges. From September 14 to December 9, I assisted at the killing of 6,352 head of which 1,371 were pheasants, 312 were hares, and 3,733 rabbits. For some reason or other I was again unable to get my usual shoot at home, but Brasenose Wood provided 42 head, of which 33 were pheasants, my guns on different occasions being Colonel Kingscote, Barton, Hughes, Henley, Cotton, and Davy. A good day in the season 1898-1899 was October 27, when at Pyrton five of us shot 155 pheasants and 402 rabbits, the total bag at the end being 606 head. Two hundred and eighty-eight pheasants and a bag of 354 head on November 4, were killed by 5 guns at Shirburn Castle. Considering the above-mentioned bag at Pyrton, it is rather remarkable that on November 17 6 guns, shooting the same covers (all small ones) should have killed 101 pheasants and 354 rabbits, with a total of 469 head. Again on December 1, I find that six of us shot on this wonderful little estate of barely 800 acres, 375 head of which 360 were rabbits. A bag of 601 rabbits and a total of 636 head collected by seven of us within a short distance of Oxford stands out as a notable day. In 1899 the 43rd were at Devonport, or rather Crownhill, I myself in command of a powder-magazine opposite Saltash. As I had many acquaintances in the west country, I should probably have had more shooting

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than I could do with and, as a matter of fact, had already enjoyed some very pleasant days at Port Eliot, Kitley, and Pentillie, when the South African War interfered most rudely and the manner of shooting changed considerably. Pentillie Castle was the home of Mr. William Coryton, a typical West country squire and for many years Master of the Dartmoor hounds. He was a huge man of splendid physique who could walk for miles and miles without showing the least sign of fatigue and his habit was to ask a party to shoot and then walk them down until they couldn't move another yard. I had been warned of this little idiosyncrasy beforehand and so, prior to my day with the squire, had taken extra precautions to keep myself fit as far as possible. On this occasion six of us started at 10.15 a.m. and walked without a single halt for lunch or anything else till 4.30 p.m., our bag at the end of the day being 41 partridges, 32 pheasants, 4 hares and 10 rabbits and, thanks to my previous training, I am proud to say that at the end of the day I was like Charley's Aunt (or is it Johnnie Walker ?) going strong. While at Bloemspruit, with the Second Mounted Infantry, I managed with great difficulty to get for a few shillings an ancient double-barrelled gun with hammers, but it was more difficult still to get any ammunition. However, after much wangling, I got hold of about 50 cartridges, loaded with dust shot and alternately No. 2's, the latter big enough to kill any wild beast. The principal crab about the gun was that if one let off one barrel, the other would invariably go off too, and so it used frequently to happen that I shot at a korhaan (a species of guinea-fowl) with dust-shot and at a quail with shot

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large enough to kill a deer. However, before the supply of ammunition ran out, I contrived to kill quite a lot of game of sorts, which made a pleasant change in the menu of bully beef, varied very occasionally by a tin of Machonachie. On one occasion when at the same salubrious spot some alarm arose by the proximity of machine-gun fire and I rode out to reconnoitre. I soon found that the cause of the trouble was a party of officers headed by a certain Vet., who were busy firing a Maxim into a tame herd of springbok which had escaped from their compound. As this struck me as being a most unsporting proceeding, I rode up to the party which I found, with the exception of the Vet., to consist of about six young subalterns, and threatened them that unless they ceased from their so-called sport, I would have the whole lot put under arrest and this had the desired effect.

Invalided home the following summer from the effects of enteric followed by dysentery, I went to a Scotch moor in September to recuperate, and was able to do a little pottering about with a gun. It was a delightful place, and though the bags were never large, they consisted of all sorts of game including roe-deer, which abounded in the adjacent woods. My host had a passion for shooting these animals and we used to lie for hours in the heather while they were being driven to us. Personally I hated the job because one couldn't smoke and mosquitoes swarmed; we used to wear breeches and pig-skin leggings, but even then the little beasts used to get at one. Rumour had it that the moor was taken some years previously by a party of Americans who brought the skeeters with them; at any rate the owner of the moor used to be

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very particular as to his ghillies and others wearing kilts, but the Yankee invasion put a stop to this most effectually. By the way I shot an albino woodcock on this moor—a rarity indeed, but my host pinched it and sent it to Rowland Ward for himself. Two successive days' shooting over the same ground each day at my old Oxfordshire home, produced a total of 1,107 head of which 133 were hares and 773 rabbits; 7 guns the first day, 6 the second. Another good day at the same place was November 8, when seven of us killed 225 pheasants, 408 rabbits, and a total of 642 head. The next day, however, provided a still heavier bag when I shot at Scott-Murray's place, "the Squeaker" being absent in South Africa. We killed with 8 guns 362 pheasants (most of them real snorters), and 165 hares with a total at the end of the day of 552 head. On this day I was feeling the effects of my internal troubles from South Africa, and I recollect one of the guns, Mr. Hudson (of Hudson's soap) who had bought the historic Danesfield from Scott-Murray senior, saying to me at the end of one of the beats, "Say, bo, you're looking mighty sick; have a stick of life-long candy." I haven't the least idea what the stuff was, but it certainly bucked me up in a wonderful manner, and I was able to stick it out for the rest of the day.

(*To be continued.*)

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" COMINGS AND GOINGS IN WAZIRISTAN "

By K. S. Wootten and J. A. Theobalds

After the Waziristan Campaign of 1919-20, the country was occupied, and it was proposed to open it up by building roads, and even railways, with the idea of giving the tribes some means of earning their living other than by preying on their more peaceful neighbours in British India. In this way it was hoped to bring about the gradual pacification of the country as has been done in Baluchistan.

With this end in view, a circular motor road was built (parts of it were in existence before), starting from Bannu, the railhead in North Waziristan, and finishing up at Manzai, the Southern Waziristan railhead.

An extension was made leaving the main road near the bridge over the Tochi at Thal, and it is hoped eventually to make another extension to Wana in the south and to link up with Fort Sandeman in Baluchistan.

Razmak itself is situated on an undulating plateau of an average elevation of about 7,000 feet; it is 74 miles from Bannu and about the same distance from Manzai.

The border between the territory of the Wazirs and Mahsuds, the two chief tribes who inhabit Waziristan, lies just outside the camp, and there are frequent disputes between the two tribes about the boundary, the much coveted Razmak plateau with its good grazing being the Waziris' territory.

The present military policy is to maintain a striking force at Razmak in the centre of the country to deal

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instantly with any trouble, and to have a series of posts on the road from which the permanent piquets and road protection troops are provided. In addition to the regular troops, there are the Tochi and South Waziristan Scouts, with head-quarters at Miranshal and Jandola respectively, and Khassadars. The former are militia with British officers of the Indian Army seconded from their regiments, while the latter are local levies who find their own arms and ammunition and are paid for their protective duties.

The garrison at Razmak consists of six infantry battalions, one pioneer battalion, one squadron of cavalry, one armoured car company, one brigade of pack artillery, one section of 6 inch howitzers, one company of Sappers and Miners, Signals, Field Ambulance and all the various auxiliary services.

It is a brigade group commanded by a Colonel Commandant. Of this force, two battalions and the section of 6 inch Howitzers, are left behind to look after the camp, while the remainder constitutes the mobile column and is a fairly formidable force.

The camp is built on the principle of a perimeter camp, each battalion being allotted a portion of the perimeter while the remaining troops are situated in the centre.

It is protected by a ring of camp piquets, while round the camp itself is a 3 feet 6 inches wall, a deep ditch and two belts of wire. This perimeter is held by posts at frequent intervals, with automatic weapons on fixed mountings, so that they can, if necessary, fire along the wire at night.

The camp is divided into two, an upper and lower camp. The former is permanent with stone huts,

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while the latter is evacuated when the column goes out and its garrison therefore lives in tents. Between the two is an alternative perimeter which is held on the evacuation of the lower camp. All supplies are brought up from railhead at Bannu by M.T. convoys, and the road has to be opened six days a week to enable these convoys and other traffic to get through.

From Razmak to Manzai the road is opened by Scouts and Mahsud Khassadars, and officers are encouraged to travel that way to get the Mahsuds used to everyday traffic through their own country protected only by themselves.

About the beginning of December, rumour started getting busy, and it was said that the Column was going to be exercised; some said to build bridges down at Nairobi, others said to chase a tribe at Splitoi, who had been leaving undone the things that they ought to have done. Eventually, soon after Christmas, definite orders were issued that the Column would go out on January 24, to Datta Khel, to test the organisation and transport arrangements, and to show the flag in territory seldom visited by troops.

Everybody now got busy with preliminaries, and frequent conferences were held at Brigade Headquarters. Arrangements were made for evacuating the lower camp and for handing over that portion of the perimeter and those piquets held by column troops. The Lower Camp was handed over to Wazir Khassadars to look after, and on our second day out the "flying bedstead," which will be referred to later, received a message that Razmak was being attacked by Mahsuds. Actually, it transpired that Mahsuds had attacked the Wazir guardians of the lower camp, but

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had retired without doing any material damage. The Column moved out on winter scale, which meant tents would be carried, and for their transport lorries were provided.

Greatcoats, jerkins, waterproof sheets, and three blankets were taken, and in addition each man was allowed a fifteen pound kit, and each officer a forty pound kit.

All kits, blankets, stores, etc., were labelled with different co'ours, and each company, orderly room, and quartermaster was allotted throughout the same carts, which were also carefully labelled.

About a week before we started, it was suddenly discovered that instead of having ten officers' chargers, we only had four, and a frantic search began. Gunners, Signals and I.A.S.C. were all drawn blank, but finally six old screws were produced, which served the purpose.

At last the great day arrived, and the Regiment awoke in the dark and early hours of a very cold January 24, to the fact that they would soon have to be out on the road.

After the usual incidents, which always accompany a start in the dark, the companies paraded at the appointed hour and marched out to form up as a regiment outside the camp. But this was not so easy as it appeared. Every other unit seemed imbued with the same idea, and that was to get out of camp first, and had not the gate posts stood firm, there is no doubt that the principle of " the expanding torrent " would have been well illustrated. As it was, we had the greatest difficulty in getting through intact.

Once through the " Narrows," we were able to

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breathe a little more freely and to look upon our neighbours with contempt. The ever hardy Gurkhas were in shirt sleeves (it was surely freezing at the time), and their officers were trying to look as if they enjoyed it, and had lived in shirt sleeves all their lives. We ourselves felt quite cool enough in drill jackets, as we had been wearing serge all the winter up till then.

The Regiment formed part of the advanced guard, and "A" Company was vanguard throughout the march. "B" Company had moved off earlier to open the road for the whole column as far as the Razmak Narai, eventually rejoining the column with the rearguard.

It would not be amiss here to put in a word about road protection generally, as it will no doubt help those, who have not been fortunate enough to take part in the game, on the frontier, to follow this narrative more easily.

The road from Bannu to Razmak (74 miles) is opened daily, except Sundays, by regular troops from the garrisons of the seven posts or camps distributed along it, each post being responsible for a certain section. In addition there are permanent piquets, housed in small forts, which command the road from the heights on either side. These are manned day and night, some by regular troops, some by Khassadars, and are only relieved weekly. The road opening troops (probably a company, or perhaps two) move out in the early morning and take up positions, closer in than the permanent piquets, on the section of road allotted to them, with the object of preventing any organized attack on the convoys and troops passing

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through. There they remain until "road closing" time, probably about two or three in the afternoon, and then withdraw to camp. The withdrawal or closing is not a mere matter of "about turn" and march back: it has to be done at great speed, each successive piquet covering the withdrawal of those in the rear. The Regiment, we believe, holds the record in speed for Razmak at any rate. In bad weather, road opening is not a pleasant occupation, and those who have remained for six or seven hours on a bleak hill-top on a rainy day with the wind cutting clean through you, will bear this out. This system of road protection or "R.P." as it was called, is somewhat different from what we were to experience later on when we got off the beaten track. Here there were no permanent piquets, and to protect the march of the column, it was necessary to piquet as we went along. The normal procedure is for the piqueting troops to march immediately in rear of the advanced guard. The advanced guard commander, accompanied by the officer commanding the piqueting troops and the leading company commander, move just ahead of the main guard, so that the advanced guard commander's orders regarding the position and strength of piquets can be acted on immediately.

We left the regiment with chattering teeth just moving off, "A" Company doing vanguard. It was just getting light, and, though you couldn't see more than thirty yards ahead, an optimistic photographer was busy taking his first snaps of the column. These Indian photographers are an amazing breed. There were four of them with the column and they were continually popping up everywhere when least ex-

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pected. Piquets in their last rush to take the hill, expecting a horde of fierce tribesmen to meet them on the top, encountered the grinning face of the Brigade photographer, or "B.F." as he was affectionately called. (This is not a misprint, but his official title, of which he was very proud.) Needless to say these enterprising gentry reaped a very rich harvest in selling their photographs to the men on return to Razmak.

As it grew light, we were able to observe an amazing mechanical contraption on wheels, which got into everybody's way on every possible occasion, and was heartily cursed by every commander from end to end of the column. Even Heath Robinson, in his wildest moments, could not have conceived anything like this. It resembled an aerial spring bed on wheels and was rightly named the "flying bedstead." Some said it was the Brigade Commander's camp bed, others said it was a form of ambulance specially constructed for the use of Quartermaster-Sergeants who might fall by the wayside. However, it turned out to be a wireless brain wave on the part of the Brigade Signal Officer, who had inadvertently let it loose to roam at will.

Razmak Narai was reached without incident, and the march downhill commenced with "C" and "D" Companies piqueting as far as Razani, our destination.

We had been going downhill for about half-an-hour, when on the morning stillness broke the thunder of horses' hoofs from the rear; nearer and nearer they sounded, and those of us who could look round beheld a horseman galloping, as it were, for dear life

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down the hill. " The rear guard has been attacked—urgent message for the van guard commander," we thought. Rider and horse swept past us in a flash, but we were just able to recognize our gallant signal officer, with a look of grim determination on his face, which told us that whatever happened, he meant to do or die. Then, to our horror, we saw a hairpin bend straight ahead of him, with a sheer drop of several hundred feet on the outer edge. Could he stop in time? No, he couldn't, and was round the corner before we could recover our breath. Yet another hair-pin bend ahead of him—this time he must surely pull up—but if anything he was going faster. It seemed that nothing could save horse and rider from dashing themselves to pieces on the rocks below. They were just on the corner, the rider frantically tugging at the reins—the horse banked—his feet slipped (we wanted to shut our eyes) but he managed to skid round the corner in a way that would have done credit to a racing motorist. On they went at a still fiercer speed, but then came a sudden check. A brave and intrepid gunner stepped into the middle of the road, and the horse, probably having had previous experience of gunners, came to a dead stop. It is only fair to mention here that the rider remained seated. To us onlookers, it appeared a serious breach of discipline that a soldier should take it upon himself to stop a messenger with probably a most urgent communication, no matter how reckless he might appear to be. However, we were yet to learn the plain and simple truth. This brave and fearless officer had apparently had a temporary " dis " in the circuit between his own forces of control and those of his

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mount, and the look of determination on his face as he passed us was only evidence of the supreme effort he was making to regain "contact." It was a sight never to be forgotten, and an episode that many a film producer would have paid thousands for.

After this, the rest of the march was tame enough, and after putting sixteen miles behind us, we were quite glad to sight Razani, our first camp, though this was not the end of the day's work by any means.

On arrival at our camping ground, we noticed that greetings to Company Quartermaster Sergeants, who had been carried in state ahead of us in lorries, were not of the friendliest character.

Temporary piquets were immediately put out by the advanced guard and the regiment marched on to their camp site, which had previously been marked out by Clare and his minions of the colour party with tapes and flags.

Now setting up a perimeter camp and getting settled therein, is a somewhat stiffer proposition than coming to anchor in the ordinary type of camp which most of us are used to. Therefore a short description of such as we experienced on this column would not perhaps be out of place.

The perimeter, having been previously marked out by the column staff, is divided amongst the infantry regiments, each having a definite sector to look after. The remaining units such as gunners, sappers, transport, medical, etc., are then allotted areas in the centre. The gunners have their guns ready laid so as to be able to give immediate support to any camp piquets should they be attacked.

As regards outer defence, camp piquets are posted

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on the hills around the camp and at such danger points which provide a covered line of approach. A wall, about 3 feet 6 inches high is built round the whole of the perimeter, each regiment constructing its own portion; if stones are not available for this, then lying cover or a small trench is substituted. At night sentry groups are posted on the perimeter, and emplacements at corners and entrances, the latter usually being blocked by transport carts, are manned by Lewis or Vickers guns. In addition, each regiment finds an inlying piquet and local reserve, the former ready to turn out in a minute at the most. In the event of an alarm the remainder of the regiment man the perimeter opposite their tents, each man having a definite place to go to. The whole procedure of manning the perimeter is rehearsed at " Stand To " which takes place every evening before dark.

Returning to our narrative, we find the Regiment just arriving on their camp site, and no doubt many were wondering how much rest they would get that night when they saw the legions of small, flinty stones which littered the ground. It was because these stones were so small, and there were no others available, that we were unable to build a perimeter wall, and therefore we had to set to and dig a wide shallow trench sufficient for lying cover only. This did not take very long, and no sooner was it finished than up came the tents and kits in the train transport. These were unloaded in no time, and tent pitching began. The four companies were in line, each with a double row of tents parallel to and about six paces from the perimeter. Competition between companies and platoons as to who should have their tents up first was

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very keen and survived throughout the column, and it was certainly this excellent spirit which spurred on the sore and weary to work with a will and a smile on their faces, no matter how tired they might be. Suddenly when the tents were nearly up, above the sound of tent commanders urging their teams to further efforts, and the melancholy moan of mules crying for their food, there broke forth a voice of thunder calling down maledictions on some person or persons unknown to us. It was terrific, and had we built a perimeter wall, it would surely have imitated that of Jericho. Everyone redoubled their efforts, feverishly hoping that they might not be the cause. However, it was not one of us, but an optimistic Pack Battery, who were taking their mules to water straight through our lines; the Commanding Officer had spotted them, and they richly deserved all they got committing such an unpardonable breach of etiquette in a perimeter camp.

The Regiment had to find one camp piquet. Prior to its going out, a building party was sent up to construct a sangar on the hill which had been selected for the piquet. When it was finished, the piquet party moved off, taking with them such ammunition and stores as they required for the night, and were safely installed in their miniature fort before dark.

At dusk the whole camp "stood to" with every man on the perimeter in his appointed place. The Brigade Commander made a tour of inspection after which we were able to "stand down," and from then onwards, until "Rouse" no one was allowed to enter or leave the camp.

There was a great stir in the officers' lines that

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evening when two camp beds arrived and were installed in an "A" Company officers' tent. How it was possible for a camp bed to be included in a 40 lb. kit no one understood, and it was even hinted that these officers' kits weighed more than 40 lbs. Judging by the remarks, it seemed that these beds were destined for a speedy end, and envy was rife that night when those less fortunate were trying to seek slumber on jagged boulders. However, the "A" Company officers were wise in their generation, and had commissioned the services of a charitable padre, who carried their beds in his car until he could go no further.

Shortly after dark, the local tribesman who had evinced much shyness during the day thought fit to remind us of his presence in the most ungentlemanly manner by sniping at the camp until quite a late hour. However, he at last desisted from his futile pastime, and, though the night was cold and our couches none too downy, we were soon sleeping the sleep of the just.

When we rose on the 25th, there was a mutiny of bearers. Previously on manœuvres there had been no trouble about officers' tents, and the bearers had all worked well. But this time they got it into their heads that the soldier was there to do their work for them. But Clare thought differently. He had a quiet meeting round the corner. What he said or did no one excepting the bearers know, but we never had any further trouble, and the officers' tents were struck and pitched like lightning from then onwards.

Everything went according to schedule, and at the appointed time we were ready to take the road again.

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On that day we were the rear guard whose first duty is to relieve all camp piquets found by other regiments about half-an-hour before the column moves.

After we had been marching for about two hours, there occurred, what from then on became a daily phenomenon, the passing of the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," namely the quartermasters of the column. These, after staying behind to see the transport off and the camp cleaned up, left with the rear guard followed by their body guard of sweepers. They then jogged gently past the already hot and dusty column amid derisive cheers, and joined the advance guard in readiness to mark out the new camp before the arrival of the column; after this, cool and refreshed, they met their respective regiments when they marched in.

A great addition to the Regiment was our genial medical officer, who was by now quite an old friend, having doctored most of us at one time or another in Pindi. His great characteristic was his clothes, which would have done credit to a Savile Row tailor under any conditions, and his capacity for drinking beer and smoking Burma cheroots must be unequalled. He was known to the troops as the "Honourable" and he certainly looked the part.

It is interesting to record that the length of the column with transport was seven miles.

After doing about 13½ miles, Damdil Post came in sight and was greeted with a cheer which later turned to groans when the head of the column was seen to be going straight on, and we found we were to camp on the site of Damdil old camp about two miles farther on. We were not very impressed with it at first

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sight, as the old perimeter wall had collapsed and the stones were scattered all over the area on which the tents were to be pitched. This later proved a blessing as the stones were cleared to build up the perimeter wall and no trench had to be dug. It would not be out of place here to express our gratitude to the 3/2nd Bombay Pioneers. They were used as infantry throughout, and in addition supplied skilled labour to build camp defences. They were always very helpful to us, and in addition to lending us tools, they frequently sent us two platoons to build corner posts on the perimeter.

At this camp we found two camp piquets, one on the flat about 300 yards from the perimeter, and one on a hill overlooking the camp. Piquet building and occupying worked more smoothly now as everybody knew what to do, and we went to bed looking forward to getting off the beaten track on the next day and seeing a bit of country new to us.

The next morning, the 26th, we were out of camp by daylight and once more on the road, which seemed extraordinarily hard to some of us, or perhaps it was that our feet were extraordinarily soft. It was not long before we reached the top of Thal hill, where, on a clear day, one gets a magnificent view of the Tochi valley. The road from here winds steeply down for about three miles to the fine bridge, which crosses the Tochi river. Thal Fort, a grim-looking battlement, perched on a razor edge, commands the bridge and both approaches, and the column, crossing the bridge and crawling like a snake into the distance, presented a fine sight to those who were watching from the fort.

A few miles beyond Thal Bridge, we branched off

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the main Bannu road at Isho Corner and headed for Miranshah; at least that was our general direction, but the road frequently took us round in circles which was a trifle disheartening at times.

While we were trudging along, the Brigade "Q" Staff was really earning its pay. They had arrived in advance on the proposed camp site at Miranshah and found that the local inhabitants had opened their irrigation channels, and had completely flooded the whole ground. Apparently that was their polite way of informing us that we were not wanted. The column was due to arrive in another hour, so something had to be done at once, and the Staff Captain, nothing daunted, set off to select an entirely new camping ground, which would have to be marked out by the time the column arrived.

Few people could have done it in time, but our Staff Captain was a man of great resource and common sense, and everything was ready for us when we marched in, at the end of our 17 mile march.

It was again decided that the perimeter defences should take the form of lying cover only, and to get ours finished quickly we borrowed additional tools from the Pioneers and the Ammunition Column. As a matter of fact, one finds that when one does have all the company available for digging, the allotment of tools is not nearly sufficient to keep every one employed.

Our friends, the Pack gunners, who had not forgotten the little episode at Razani, now thought the time was ripe to get their own back. Their lines were in rear of ours, and they had carefully demarcated their boundary with a line of stones, so that there

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should be no dispute over territory. Presently along came a most agitated gunner officer, and addressing one of us, said :—" Major A's compliments, will you please remove your kit out of his lines at once." The officer concerned went to make investigations, and found that his bearers had thoughtlessly put up his camp basin so that two of its legs were on the gunners' side of the line of stones. However, we still considered ourselves one up.

After " Stand Down," a few of us went round to have a look at some of our neighbours' messes. Some were fairly comfortable with tables and chairs, others preferred packing cases, but wherever we went, we found each one full of good spirits. The Regiment had to find two camp piquets, each out on the plain, commanding dangerous nullahs which ran towards camp. Sangars were built and the piquet parties moved out before dusk.

It was that evening that the great water scandal was exposed. The Commanding Officer had paid a visit to the river to see what the watering arrangements were like, and he found at the spot marked off for drinking, a large collection of mules disporting themselves in the water, which was supposedly earmarked for human consumption. The Medical Officer responsible for the watering arrangements was not to be found at that moment, but when he was ——!!!

When darkness had fallen, and we were enjoying that excellent feeling of ease and contentment, that comes to one after a hard day's work, we were rudely disturbed by the sounds of a terrific battle, which seemed to be taking place around one of the camp piquets held by the Pioneers. Their signaller was

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working his lamp at a speed which made us doubt whether his message would ever get through. However the noise of battle soon died down, and we were glad to learn that the piquet suffered no material damage. It was only some of the local gentry trying to remind us of their unwanted presence.

Finally as we turned in that night, our hearts were full of gladness at the thought of a well-earned rest on the morrow. It was a great joy next morning to dress and shave leisurely, and finally to sit down to a comfortable breakfast knowing that one's plate would not be snatched away and packed up before the bacon and eggs, so necessary to ensure a good day, were disposed of. Owing to water scarcity, washing up to the present had been rather scanty, and it was decided to spend the 27th in bathing and cleaning up generally. The only water available for the column was that of the river Charkhai, a tributary of the Tochi, and it was about a mile away. The oft maligned mule certainly earned his daily keep as all cooking and drinking water had to be fetched in pakhals.

For washing the troops went down to the river by companies in clean fatigue dress with rifles and 20 rounds of S.A.A. and carrying canvas buckets, soap and towels. At the river a piquet was put out and then a scene rivalling Blackpool in the season presented itself; men in every stage of dress and undress could be seen removing the dust and dirt of the road and thoroughly enjoying the bathe.

Miranshah is situated on a bare, sandy plain, stretching from the river Charkhai up to the hills. In the centre of the plain is the fort, the head-quarters of the Tochi Scouts who are some 2,400 strong but

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are scattered all over North Waziristan in detachments. We were much impressed by their appearance here, smart, well turned out, and well drilled. In addition to the Scouts, there was a flight of the Royal Air Force who had quite a good aerodrome at their disposal. Most of us paid a visit to the Scouts' Mess in the fort during our stay at Miranshah, and it proved well worth while. Outside the mud walls is a typically desolate frontier scene, while inside is a beautifully green lawn and garden with running water and even a stork standing on one leg. The mess would rival that in a Gurkha permanent station. Oak panelling, good heads and furniture—all being a fine testimonial to the amount of time, trouble, and money which must have been spent on it.

Our second day there, the 28th, was spent in company training, each company under its commander carrying out a tactical exercise, which finished off with a bathe in the river.

By this time we were thoroughly settling down, and each night the camp resounded with melody varying from hymn tunes to popular songs. Most of them were echoed or drowned by the rival songsters in the men's tents just outside.

On the 29th we went out as a Regiment and executed a masterly attack on an imaginary European foe.

One day, the Brigade Commander gave a luncheon party in the camp to some ladies who were motored out from Bannu, the road thus far being considered safe enough. As a good many had not seen a white member of the fair sex for nearly a year, quite a crowd assembled to view them when the news got round.

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The Air Force here, at the request of the Brigade Commander, had agreed to take one officer in each unit for a flip over Waziristan, and there was much competition in the regiment for the place. Eventually the lot fell upon Horan major, and an entire evening was spent by those who were jealous, in regaling him with the most harrowing details of frontier air crashes, and stories of what happened to people who were unlucky enough not to be killed and were captured by the local inhabitants, hoping by this means to frighten him off. But he proved to be made of sterner stuff, and nothing daunted set off and had a most enjoyable flight, taking some very good oblique photos, several of which have appeared in the JOURNAL.

On the 30th, the necessary rations and supplies for a further move had been collected, and it was with mixed feelings that we went to bed that night; ambition to visit the upper Tochi Valley vieing with regret at the thought of an early rouse and packing up.

Owing to the congestion likely to be caused in moving off from Miranshah, elaborate routes had been allotted for reaching the starting point. The one given to us involved a chukker round of about a mile ending up with a ditch full of water which had to be jumped. As the transport accompanying the Regiment included about sixty water and S.A.A. mules tied together in strings of three and led by one driver, this was no easy matter, but we managed to take our places in the column up to time. These same mules were in charge of the Regimental-Sergeant-Major, who had a small party of police to assist him. During the daily long halt of twenty minutes, they all had to

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be unloaded, and by the time the last load was grounded it was time to start reloading again. How the Sergeant-Major survived without going bald or greyheaded, it is hard to imagine.

The road from Miranshah onwards is little better than a cart track. It had previously been reconnoitred by a section of armoured cars and reported on as being fit for lorry transport. It follows the left bank of the Tochi for 10 or 11 miles, and then crosses over to the right bank at a ford. The valley is fairly wide here, well cultivated and a great contrast to that part of the country farther from the river. The road hugs the hills on the north bank and consequently piquets on that side only are sufficient to protect the road.

A number of Khassadars were out helping to piquet the road, many of them being ex-soldiers of Pathan Regiments, and, as we marched by, it was a very comic sight to see them standing on top of the hills some thousand feet above the road, saluting smartly with their rifles at the slope.

After about eight miles, the 1/2nd Gurkha Rifles, who were doing advanced guard and piqueting, came to the end of their piqueting troops and the regiment passed through them. Shortly afterwards the Tochi was forded near Boya Post.

It is interesting to recall that the latter was handed over to a supposedly loyal Wazir Malik when the upper Tochi posts were evacuated in 1919, but before the evacuating troops were even out of sight, the post was sacked and looted and a most treacherous attack was made on the transport as it was fording the river.

From here the road runs more in the centre of the valley and the only protection that could be provided

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against possible rushes from the scrub on the left or the cultivation on the right was the posting of piquets on the level ground at frequent intervals. Machine and Lewis Guns protected by rifle sections were also used to cover large areas.

Our new camp site, just south of the village of Moh'd Khel, was a few hundred yards above the river near a Khassadar post, the west side being close in under steep hills, the east and south sides bounded by an open plain.

The camp was sited partly in a dry nullah, partly above it. "B" Company were allotted their perimeter in the nullah bed, and although they had easier digging than the rest of us, I think they would rather have been more secure from the possible consequences of a sudden spate, a not unknown event in this part of the world.

Two piquets were found by the regiment, one on top of a hill from which a fine view of the camp could be obtained, the other amongst some ridges which commanded the watering place. An amusing incident occurred when the first piquet's kits were being taken up on a mule. As the mule reached the piquet's sangar, the kits fell off and rolled down to the bottom of the hill followed by the very expressive language of the sweating mule leader who had to go down to the bottom to fetch them up again. The mule probably felt even more bitter about it, but unfortunately couldn't express its feelings. Everybody settled down hopefully to sleep that night, but in the small hours we were rudely disturbed by a volley which seemed to whistle up the nullah over "B" Company. Everybody tried to huddle a bit

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closer to the ground, and in the morning no casualties were produced. Incidentally the village was fined two hundred rupees the next day; they insisted that some "badmashes" had done it, and to avoid a repetition of the fine, they said they would mount a guard that night to drive off any malefactors. We rather expected to be disturbed again by the two parties coming into conflict, but the evil-doers were either economising in ammunition, or else got wind of the reception they would have.

On February 1, we remained halted at Mohammed Khel, and the morning was spent in widening and deepening the perimeter trench, and in cleaning of rifles, equipment, and lines. In the afternoon, volunteers were called for to take part in a fishing expedition to the Tochi river. There were about a hundred starters in all, including most of the officers, and the keen fisherman would have looked aghast if he had seen that their fishing tackle consisted of picks, shovels and buckets only. However, we were to be initiated into a new method of fishing practised by the Gurkhas, and they had kindly sent two of their men with us to act as instructors.

On arrival at the river, the two Gurkhas took command, and shedding our jackets, boots and socks, we got down to work.

It would take too long to explain the method in detail. The principle is to divert the stream by means of a dam, and to hold the water in the old channel with another dam lower down stream. This water is then allowed to drain off slowly and as it becomes shallower you see your fish, who are beginning to feel somewhat apprehensive about the future, darting about among

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the stones. The way the two Gurkhas picked out fish after fish made it look too easy. But just you try! Although our bag was nothing in the way of a record, there were some quite tasty snow trout in it by the time we had finished. It was a good afternoon's amusement, and though we had managed to get thoroughly wet in the process, we had enjoyed ourselves and had learnt something useful.

Orders for the morrow revealed that half the column was to march to Datta Khel *via* the Spinchilla Pass, and old and hardened frontier officers tried to make our flesh creep with awful tales of ambushes and massacres which had taken place there years ago. Still it took a good deal more than these to make us lie awake o' nights, but we did rather wonder before retiring to roost what the next day held in store for us.

On the 2nd we were up and away early as usual, and we were detailed, with the 2/1st Gurkhas, to accompany the transport round by road, the remainder going over the notorious Spinchilla. They had a shorter distance to go, but owing to the stiff country, it was doubtful whether they would arrive at Datta Khel, our next camp, before us.

Our day's march was 10 miles, of which we piqueted the first six. In places it was very stiff. On the left was a tangled mass of hills with almost perpendicular slopes; on the right it was more open, but several of the piquets had to go far out over the other side of the Tochi, thus making their withdrawal a lengthy and breathless business. The Scouts from Datta Khel, with whom we were able to get into helio communication, helped out the Gurkhas in piqueting

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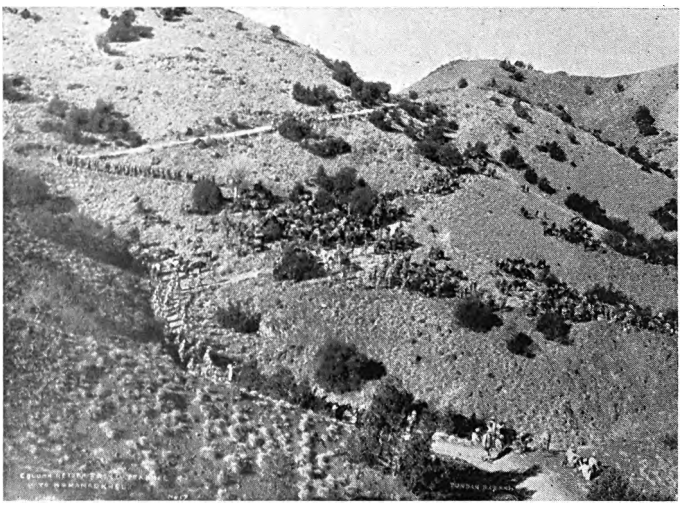
THE ISOLATED FORT OF DATTA KHEL.



SPINCHILLA PASS.

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the last two miles of the march, and we were thus able to get along quicker than we thought.

As our picquets came in, we started to form the rear guard and the Gurkhas went forward to carry on the piqueting. It was a pleasure to get on the road once more, but no sooner had we got into our stride than we were rudely checked by the extraordinary behaviour of another of the Brigade Signal Officer's mechanical contraptions. This was an ordinary A.T. Cart, on which were mounted several empty cable drums. When it moved along, which was not often, a man, sitting in the cart and turning a handle for dear life, wound up (theoretically) the line, which had been previously laid alongside the road by the advanced guard. However he could never wind fast enough, and the wire in consequence wound itself round the legs and finally the bodies of the rear guard. It was painful both to hear and watch; we couldn't leave the thing behind, and consequently had to endure the playful capers of this infernal machine for several miles.

Finally we left the river, wound up a small side valley and sighted Datta Khel, the isolated fort standing on a fair sized plain in the midst of the hills. Our camp was adjacent to the fort, and on our arrival we found that those who had braved the Spinchilla Pass had already got there. As we were marching in, we saw some of the local inhabitants, and it was difficult to imagine a more bloodthirsty-looking lot of scoundrels.

No sooner had we halted, taken off our equipment and unloaded the mules, than we set about digging our bit of the perimeter defences. Here again the

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stones were legion, but not big enough for a wall.

The Regiment had to find two camp piquets, one of which was to be on a sort of sugar loaf rock standing up out of the plain about half a mile from the camp. When the building party arrived there to construct the sangar, it was found that the rock had to be blasted before anything effective could be done. However, with the aid of the Pioneers, this was soon carried out.

At dusk the bold, bad men, mentioned above, took it upon themselves to put a few chance shots into the camp, which had no effect beyond causing the Gurkhas to man their perimeter with incredible speed, much to the amusement of our men who were looking on.

The next day, February 3, we remained at Datta Khel and spent the morning in improving the perimeter defences and repairing the cemetery, in which were buried the seven officers who were treacherously murdered in 1897 while having tea with one of the local maliks. Naturally enough when we heard that the Brigade Commander intended to take a meal with one of the local celebrities, attended only by the Political Officer and an orderly, we were not a little anxious as to his safety. But all went well, and he returned to camp very much alive, having made a great impression on his host.

The inhabitants of this part of the country are a thoroughly unscrupulous lot, and by the advice of the political authorities it was decided that the column should penetrate no further into their country, and that we should start the return journey next day.

It was our turn this time to negotiate the Spinchilla Pass, and daybreak on the 4th found us, as advanced

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guard, moving up a long winding nullah through the hills which eventually brought us out on the Narai, or top of the pass. Our orders had been to halt there, and this we did; but nothing daunted the main body came on, bumped us and even tried to pass us. Infantry, gunners, and pack transport were frantically trying to pass each other, and at the same time keep a footing on the narrow track, which was no more than two paces wide.

The confusion was awful, and in the midst of it all, up rode the Brigade Commander. Over the next few moments we will draw a veil, but apparently someone on his staff had blundered in the wording of his orders, and it will no doubt be many years before that staff officer forgets that short period in his life. Once the tangle was sorted out, we started off to piquet the route down the other side of the pass. This was quite the most difficult country we had so far met. It was a maze of hills and nullahs, and it was not long before the whole regiment was used up in piqueting. By that time we were through the pass and had reached the foot of the hills, and the column debouched into the open plain on which stood Mohammed Khel, only about two miles distant. At this point the Pioneers took over the piqueting, and as our piquets withdrew, we formed part of the rear guard. During the latter part of the march, the Commanding Officer met an old Khassadar Subedar, wearing the Croix de Guerre, and, very generously we thought, offered him a Burma Cheroot, which he accepted. However, when we encountered the old soldier again later, he cut us dead.

On arrival at Mohammed Khel, we found for the

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first time little to do. The old perimeter defences, which we had left behind, were still intact and it took us no time to get the tents up and settle in. There was great consternation among the men, when it was found that Clare was weighing kits, as soon as they were unloaded, to see if any of them were over weight. At any rate judging from the almost unparalleled attendance at Orderly Room the next day, he must have got a good haul, and not a few old soldiers amongst them.

The following day we remained at Mohammed Khel and in view of the necessity of being lightly equipped for the march over the Tut Narai Pass the next day, we sent off all surplus kit, including packs, by the wheeled transport, which was going round by road to Razani. The escort for this transport was a picked one and consisted of men who could march well and be relied on to see that the baggage arrived intact the other end. As they moved off their friends wished them *bon voyage*, and, as a parting shot, informed them that one of the worst gangs of cut throats in the country was reputed to be on their trail.

Rumour had it that our own route the next day was beset with fearful difficulties. Sappers were to take ropes with them to pull the mules up the cliff faces; Pioneers were to take ice axes to cut steps for the infantry, and some doubted whether the gunners would ever get through at all. But we were used to rumours by this time, and felt fit enough to tackle anything.

In the afternoon, the officers armed with picks and shovels could be seen making for the river, and it did not take a Sherlock Holmes to deduce that they were

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probably after fish. It was indeed so, and what is more, we had actually persuaded our genial doctor to accompany us, and even to carry a shovel, though it looked strangely out of place. This time we were in deadly earnest, and diverted the river to such purpose that a whole Sikh regiment, who were washing lower down, had to forgo the completion of their ablutions.

That evening we looked at our next day's march on the map, and though maps are notoriously bad in this part of the world, we could easily see that we were in for a fairly stiff job of work.

It was wet that night, but fortunately our tents were fairly serviceable and we suffered no discomfort. The threatened spate did not come down, and "B" Company were still there in the morning.

We woke up on the 6th with mixed feelings. First of all only a very limited supply of lorries was available to move our kit round the 45 odd miles of road which separated us from Razani, and we were rather doubtful as to whether everything would go on them. Secondly we were doing a very difficult 15 miles march on a small track over a bad pass, and it was quite on the cards that we might have to remain out all night in drill clothing with neither kits, tents, nor food. But thirdly we were getting nearer Razmak again, and we were now quite ready to return and hibernate.

The lorries, taxed to their utmost capacity, were loaded up successfully and went off under an escort of armoured cars, and at about 8.30 a.m. we moved off.

For the first three miles we followed the nullah bed, and very heavy going it proved. Immediately in front of us rode Sergeant Carter in charge of the followers of the Brigade. In his rifle bucket he

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carried a small rattan cane and at intervals he would be seen to clap spurs to his steed and, brandishing his weapon like a scimitar, would drive some bhisti back into the ranks.

The track, as it wound up the hills to Tut Narai Post, was now only wide enough for single file. After the previous night's rain, it was very muddy and the opening out of the Column caused innumerable halts to us behind.

In 1917 Tut Narai Post, garrisoned by the predecessors of the present Tochi Scouts, was captured by a ruse by Mahsud raiders dressed as girls, and they managed to get away with large numbers of rifles and a great deal of S.A.A. before the relieving column arrived, although the latter got there in record time.

The Gurkhas, who had been piqueting, had by this time exhausted their supply of men, and the 45th Sikhs passed through them. There was a small plateau on top of the hill on which there had been a fresh fall of snow and this made the going even worse. As each company reached this, it halted for twenty minutes to close up and eat haversack rations, for we were now reasonably certain of reaching Razani that day. To such an extent was the column spread out by this time, that during those twenty minutes there were never more than two companies halted together.

The Loargai Narai, the highest point, was now reached and the descent began. The track here coincided with the bed of a stream down which was running a certain amount of water. The Regiment was getting very anxious by this time as to whether it would be called upon to piquet, as the Sikhs were

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nearly all used up, but as the last Sikh platoon was sent off, Mami Rogha was reached and we met the Razani Brigade who had already piqueted the last three miles for us. We accordingly only had to march straight in and arrived to find the head of the lorry convoy with our kits on board just heaving in sight. The rear guard, which had had to withdraw all the piquets, did not get in until very late.

Sergeant Carter caused us much amusement as he rode in at the head of his little band. As he passed the canteen tent, a man dashed out with a mug, which Sergeant Carter drained at a gulp without checking his pony for an instant. His organization for refreshing the inner man would have done credit to any "Q" staff.

Although there was little to be done in the defence line, the camp was not very pleasant, as the recent snow had thawed and left the ground very cold and wet. Our spirits were further damped by the news that the Razmak Narai was impassable owing to a heavy fall of snow, and that we should have to wait until it cleared. A conference was held at Brigade Headquarters that evening after the state of the road had been reported from Duncan's piquet, and it was eventually decided to move ourselves, the 1/2nd Gurkhas and the British Pack Battery, with pack transport to Razmak next day. Dumps of all kit which was not absolutely essential, were to be left at Razani under a guard. The Razani Brigade agreed to send a regiment in lorries as far as they could go at daybreak, and shovel snow off the road. A lot of brain work was now required to decide what was to be left, how loads should be packed and re-arranged

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for pack transport, and how transport should be allotted. This was finally done and we settled down to a late and well-earned dinner. As the soup came in—Crack ! it sounded just over the mess tent and we all resisted an inclination to put out the light and lie down on the floor. A second shot followed and then peace reigned.

No one was very sorry to get up on the 7th, as the night had been cold, wet, and miserable.

We packed up in good time and the dump of surplus kit was soon full while the remainder was laid out in loads and roped up. We did not leave until about 9.30 a.m., so as to give the Razani troops time to make some progress with clearing the road.

No snow had fallen during the night, and though we hoped to get through all right, we anticipated a fairly bad march. The going was good for the first five or so miles and then we reached the snow line. The Razani troops were still clearing snow when we reached them and had removed the top layer leaving a bit of snow on the road surface which, being well trampled in, made it very slippery. Mules were continually falling down and having to be reloaded, while those which got off the road fell into heavy drifts at the side. Once we got to Duncan's piquet, all went well as a thaw had set in. " A " Company piqueted into Razmak from the Narai and our rear guard got in about 3.30 p.m., tired but glad to have a roof over their heads again.

The remainder of the column and the wheeled transport arrived the next day and so ended an experience which few of us will regret. There had been no casualties and nothing very much in the way of

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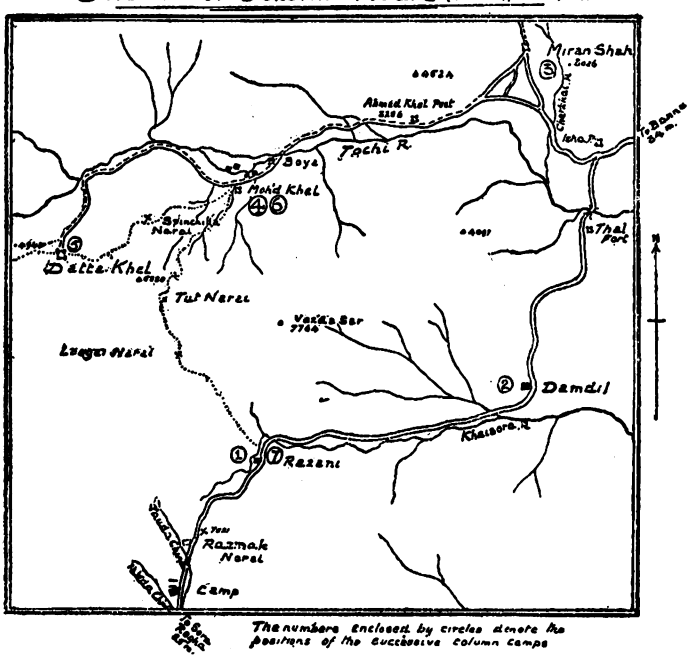
regrettable incidents, and the weather had been extremely kind to us for the time of year.

We were sorry to have missed the Wana Column on which our relief, the Sherwood Foresters, went soon after our departure for a more peaceful life. If we had done that we should have seen most of Waziristan during our tour there.

In conclusion we must apologize to our 52nd readers for any inaccuracies that may appear, but this account has been written from memory a year after the events took place, and memory may have slightly distorted or exaggerated them.

SKETCH OF COLUMN ROUTE (Scale approx 1" to 4 miles)



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BALTISTAN AS A SHOOTING GROUND

I DETERMINED to spend my leave this year in Baltistan, a country I had previously visited in 1923. I was out after one of the big heads that still are there to be picked up, and I realized at once that I must go early if I was to do any good, first to get one of the very few reserved nallahs for Markhor, and secondly to get to the game before it was shot over by others, and while the snow still kept the good heads low. I reached Cashmere on March 2 and met Ahmed Malik, a Shikari I have had before, and one of the nicest and most loyal men I have ever had to deal with. I spent a few days looking for Barasingh, but I saw nothing of over 40 inches and, as I was out for a big head, I stayed my hand. I then tried the passage of the Zogi La; this was very difficult. There was deep snow for thirty miles on either side of the pass; the first day in a blizzard nine miles in nine hours; a three days halt at the foot of the pass waiting for the snow to stop falling, twelve hours across the pass (eight miles) and so on till we got out of the snow.

The coolies asked ten rupees each to carry forty pounds, and they earned it.

Once across the pass one turns down the Indus about five marches to Parkhutta, where the Shyok river joins the Indus. Following the Shyok up one eventually reaches Ladak, and on the way one passes several excellent ibex nallahs, not much shot over, which I would recommend to anybody who likes getting off the beaten track. Withington shot here in 1923.

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Four marches farther down the Indus brings you to Skardu, the capital of Baltistan. Hence one may turn down the Indus again towards Gilgit and Rhondu. Here one passes the only five nallahs in Baltistan, where Markhor may still be shot. They are allotted in order of arrival in Cashmere territory.

The nallahs are Tsurri, Baghicha, Turmik, Tak and Badlooma, one to seven marches respectively from Skardu. These nallahs also contain ibex; alternatively one may turn northwards up the Shigar valley, the best known ibex ground in the world. The Shigar forks two marches above Skardu to the great glaciers around Arandu and Askole, the latter at the foot of the Mustagh pass made famous by Younghusband's remarkable journey. Beneath these glaciers are found the big ibex of India, which are not, of course, comparable to those of the Central Asian Thian Range, where the Roosevelt expedition got a 60 inch head in 1924, the Indian record being 50½ inches.

Morland writing, I think, in 1907, said Baltistan was getting shot out; the comparative proximity of the shooting ground, the ease of supply and transport and the abundance of all game tending to this. But strict preservation and the long rest afforded by the war worked wonders, and from 1919 to 1922 there were some fine heads to be had. They are now getting scarcer and scarcer and I advise him who reads to run should he be anxious to gain one of the few remaining prizes. This year on arrival at Skardu, I had very exceptional luck. I proceeded to my Markhor nallah Tsurri, and the very first day out shot three buck Markhor of 52 inches, 50, and 45 inches—fine patriarchal bucks. The stalk

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was tremendous, being over really fearful ground (Markhor ground is notorious) and I do not think I would do it again for anything. My good luck was due to having a Shikari who knew the ground and the fact that the game was quite undisturbed. I next determined to try for a big ibex. I made a mental reservation of 45 inches, and pushed off towards Arandu. I think I was probably foolish not to have hurried straight to Askole, slightly farther, where there are probably one or two heads of nearly 50 inches. My first day out I bagged the big head out of a huge herd, a head of 45½ inches.

Visions of a forty-eighter began to flit through my brain, but it was not to be. The next day I missed a sitting shot at a forty-sixer through the three hundred leaf on my sights being pushed up, and a few days later I shot a very big one, probably about the same size, who fell several hundred feet and broke his horns to atoms. On another occasion I drew a bead on a very big head and had a misfire. Reloading I snapped at my target, but he had adroitly changed places with a step-son or a nephew, and to my extreme chagrin I brought down a paltry head of forty inches. I searched every nallah from Arandu to Shigar for that big head. It haunts me still. I do not suppose I shall shoot it till I can get to Central Asia.

The Rajah of Shigar assured me the father and mother of ibex had appeared in his private preserve and gave me a day after it. It was really only 44 inches, though the spread was the most remarkable I have ever seen, and I might have shot it; however a lynx saved it by chasing it from under my very nose into another nallah.

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Is Baltistan worth while? Personally I think so. The aboriginals are delightful, though they were terrified of "Lona," my great Dane, who always accompanies me out shooting, patiently waiting outside my tent for my return and always devouring the bag. The mountain scenery is wonderful, though the lower hills are bleak. The villages in the spring are delightful with their apricot blossom, and later there are always the apricots, grapes, apples, peaches and walnuts. The climate is delightful; it never rains at all. The shooting too is still good, and with really strict preservation and a rigorous limit on the number of rifles allowed annually, it may remain so. Besides Markhor and ibex one may also shoot sharpu (though the heads are small), and red bear who come out from their winter sleep about the middle of May. But if one could shoot nothing more exciting than a pole-cat, one at least gets away from the second-rate atmosphere of the Indian Club, from the harrowing details of Mrs. Jones' cat having kittened, and the narrow life of an Indian Cantonment.

M. T. STEPHENS.

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THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

READERS of the REGIMENTAL JOURNAL know already that a small Regimental Museum was started at the Depot in the beginning of 1925, and full descriptions and names of the donors, of articles as received have been given in that publication. During its short life many really interesting and valuable trophies and relics have found a fitting home, and the intention of this article is to give a more general record of its contents, which can now be divided definitely into the following groups of trophies and relics :—

(1) Those of direct Regimental interest.

(2) Those of past wars and general military interest, not connected with the Great War.

(3) Those of the Great War, but not of direct Regimental interest.

Under the first heading we have :—

(*a*) *Colours.*—The Colours of the old Fourth Militia Battalion the 5th, 6th, 8th, and 9th Battalions of the Great War and the 1st Garrison Battalion of the Great War, have all been deposited here for safe keeping, but they are not museum property.

(*b*) *Medals.*—A case has been started and is showing good progress. Amongst others there is a fine row of four which belonged to Colour Sergeant Thomas Collier of the 43rd—South Africa 1853, Indian Mutiny 1857, New Zealand 1864 and the Long Service Medal.

(*c*) *The Collection of Captain James Kirkwood, 52nd Light Infantry.* Consisting of his portrait in oil, two swords, gorget, sash, calabash water bottle and pistol.

(*d*) *The Collection of Colonel George Campbell, C.B., 52nd Light Infantry.* Consisting of his Regimental sword and sash, presented to him by the officers of the 52nd on his leaving the Regiment on January 31, 1860, and his revolver.

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Corner of Regimental Museum at Depôt.

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(*e*) *The Collection of Lieut.-Colonel H. Booth, K.H.* Consisting of epaulettes, spurs, chin scale and shako badge.

(*f*) *Commissions.* Major F. B. St. John, to the 52nd, 1830; Ensign Lord Walter Montague Douglas Scott to the 52nd, 1853; Lieut. Lord Walter Montague Douglas Scott, to the 52nd, 1854; Ensign E. B. Pocklington, to the 52nd, 1867.

(*g*) *Swords.*—Various old Regimental swords including those of Major-General F. H. Plowden, C.B., and Lord Walter Scott.

(*h*) *Miscellaneous.*—Various shako's, helmets and caps worn during the last seventy years; two 52nd cross belts plates, 1825-50; a 43rd bugle used in South Africa, 1899; a 5th Battalion silver bugle during the Great War; various buttons, buckles, epaulettes and badges, etc., of different periods, etc.; the 52nd Regimental Battle Headquarters flag used during the Great War; the 52nd Regimental Headquarters' flag used in billets during the Great War; the 52nd Company Headquarters' flags used in Germany, 1919. (The original flags used during the Great War were kept by different officers and would be a coveted addition to the Museum if still in existence). 42nd Infantry Brigade pennant won by the 5th Battalion during the Great War.

Under the second heading we have :—

(*a*) *Mohmand Expeditionary Force Trophies.*—Consisting of two gezails, three sabres and one helmet with chain protection, surrendered to Brigadier-General McGregor's column of which the 52nd formed part.

(*b*) *Arms.*—Various Burmese and Indian swords and sabres. A Brown Bess Musket of Peninsular period, and a pair of double barrelled pistols.

Under the third heading we have :—

(*a*) *German Trophies.*—Consisting of Prussian Guards officers' helmet and cap and swords, captured at Nonneboschen Wood, 1914; German bugles, Uhlans' pennant, captured in September, 1914; German rifles and numerous bayonets.

(*b*) *Turkish Trophies.*—Consisting of a side drum, rifles and swords, etc.

(*c*) *British Trophies.*—Consisting of assortment of bombs, shell cases and nose caps, etc.; trench signs and maps, gas helmets and raiding sticks.

In addition to the above, a local Bodleian has been started and a good collection of books of Regimental

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and General Military interest has been made, a great many having been presented by Colonel A. F. Mockler Ferryman.

The following property of the 43rd has been deposited in the Museum for safe keeping until the Regiment returns from the Rhine.

(1) The case containing Sir John Moore's sword.

(2) The case containing Sir William Napier's sash and K.C.B.; gold Peninsular medal; miniature gorget.

(3) The silver epaulettes and Regimental buttons of Captain Cooke; the case containing the trophies of the Amir Dhost Mahommed Khan.

(4) Three large and two small cases of the Lea Medal collection. (The remaining cases have been deposited temporarily in the Sergeants' Mess and Men's Library.)

Although the portrait of Colonel Sir Henry Macleod presented to the officers of the Regiment by Mrs. Charles Bridgeman (great-niece of Sir Henry) to be hung in the Depot ante-room is in no way connected with the Museum, this is possibly a suitable place to describe and acknowledge this valuable gift.

The picture is life-size, three-quarters length, presumably wearing 52nd uniform with the decorations of Knight of Hanover, St. Vladimir of Russia and the Waterloo Medal.

Sir Henry Macleod was the youngest of General Sir John Macleod's four sons, all of whom served in the Peninsular Campaign, the eldest being Colonel Charles Macleod who was killed commanding the 43rd at

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COLONEL SIR HENRY MACLEOD, K.H.

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Badajoz. Aetat 26. (A monument was erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey by his brother officers.)

Sir Henry served in the Peninsular and at Waterloo, where he was wounded, but he did not join the 43rd until 1820, when he became a Captain.

In 1822 he was gazetted to the 52nd. He was made a Knight of Hanover in 1837, and became a Colonel in 1838. Lieutenant Governor of St. Kitts 1837, Lieutenant Governor of Trinidad 1843 to 1846. Obit 1847.

P. BOOTH, *Captain.*

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MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS OF THE REGIMENT

4TH BATTALION (OXFORD MILITIA).

BY BRIG.-GENERAL A. J. F. EDEN, C.M.G., D.S.O.

THE Oxfordshire Militia, from 1881 to 1908 the 4th Battalion of the Regiment, came into existence in 1778. In this year the Lords-Lieutenant of about fifty counties were ordered to "draw out and embody" the Militia. In the County of Oxfordshire the Duke of Marlborough was the person so addressed. Lord Charles Spencer was appointed Colonel and Commanding-Officer. The County was divided into eight divisions, the total number of men available being reckoned at 12,900. Only 560 were required, so that the ballot did not fall very heavy on the men population! Twenty-four officers found the establishment as follows: 1 Colonel, 1 Lieut.-Colonel; 1 Major, 5 Captains, 1 Captain-Lieutenant, 8 Lieutenants and 7 Ensigns. The first eight named officers commanded companies, which consisted of one Grenadier and seven battalions. The Captain-Lieutenant was second in command to the Colonel; the Adjutant and Quarter Master were two of the Lieutenants, and the Surgeon an Ensign. All three were posted to companies.

The first station of the Regiment was Reading. It moved the following year to Newbury, and then on to Dover. It is interesting to note how often it was quartered at this last place, as it was there again in 1803-04, 1859-60, and as the 3rd (Special Reserve)

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Battalion in 1917-19. In 1781-82 various places in the West of England formed their station. The Militia were disembodied in March, 1783, and between then and 1792, the Regiment was called out annually for training. In December, 1792, the whole of the Militia was embodied. The Regiment was quartered at Brighton and other places on the South Coast until 1796, when it was ordered to the East Coast. In 1798 it was transferred to Ireland to assist in suppressing the rebellion there, and was eventually disembodied in 1800. A return dated August, 1799, shows the strength of privates as 966 out of an establishment of 1,130.

A year previous to this, Colonel W. Gore Langton succeeded to the command. In March, 1803, the Regiment was again embodied and proceeded to Dover. Spending a couple of years there, it was moved successively to Colchester, Taunton, Gosport and Brighton. During 1811, it did garrison duty at the Tower of London. After a short stay at Bristol, it found itself in Ireland again in 1813, being quartered in the vicinity of Cork in the forts and on Spike Island. When peace was finally proclaimed, it returned to England, doing garrison duty at Portsmouth for six months before being finally disembodied in February, 1816. A statement laid before the Lieutenancy of the County in 1813 showed an effective strength of 622 "private men," whilst the establishment allowed was only 603.

From 1816, trainings became intermittent up to the year 1831, when the Militia was suspended throughout the kingdom until 1852. In this year it was revived upon an entirely new footing, chiefly at the instance

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of the Duke of Wellington, who was strongly in favour of its reorganization.

In 1847, Colonel C. O. Bowles succeeded Colonel Gore Langton, who had been in command for the past 49 years.

The training, lasting 21 days, of 1852, took place at Woodstock, but the village was not large enough to billet 481 men, so the following year it was in Oxford and under improved conditions. In December, 1854, the Crimean War having broken out and officers and men having volunteered for service "wherever Her Majesty may be pleased to send them," it was embodied for permanent service and proceeded to Portsmouth. Here, on May 24, 1855, new Colours, worked by the ladies of Oxfordshire, were presented. The old set, which had been carried since its formation, was deposited in the County Hall at Oxford. Shortly after this, in the same year it was sent to Corfu, where with four other Militia battalions, it remained until disembodied at Oxford on July 15, 1856. Colonel Bowles did not go to Corfu, the Regiment being commanded by Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Fane, who eventually succeeded the former officer in 1862. Several battalions had volunteered their services for garrison duty in the Mediterranean, and the offer of ten was accepted. To mark her sense of these valuable services, H.M. Queen Victoria gave permission for the word "Mediterranean" to be worn on the Colours.

The Indian Mutiny broke out in 1857, and the Militia was once again embodied. The Regiment was one of 18 corps which volunteered for service in India. It assembled at Oxford on September 18, and the following month was sent to Woolwich,

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being quartered in the Artillery Barracks. It remained here till the following June. Various changes took place at this time. The badges of the flank companies—the grenade and the bugle denoting grenadier and light companies respectively—were abolished. The old fire-locks were superseded by the English rifle. Mess rules were also drawn up. The dress of officers at Mess was laid down, and also that of the Mess servants, who were to appear in regimental livery or in that of their respective masters. An Officers' Tandem Club is recorded as in existence.

The summer of 1858 was spent under canvas in a brigade camp at Aldershot, followed by a winter in lines in the South Camp till August, 1859. The Queen and the Prince Consort were often at the Royal Pavilion and one day after a field-day, visited the Oxfordshire camp and made a very close inspection of many portions of it. Her Majesty expressed to the Colonel great approval of what she had seen. Once again the Regiment found itself at Dover, where it remained till disembodiment was ordered early in 1860. This took place at Oxford on February 28, a great dinner being held at the Mitre Hotel, when a presentation of plate was made to Captain Cuming, the Adjutant. During these two-and-a-half years, many men had volunteered for service in the Regular Army and especially in the Guards.

The first annual training after this took place in May, 1862, and in this and the four following years was at Oxford. During these years the training period was for 27 days commencing about the middle of April, and the Regiment was billeted in the City. From 1867 till 1875, except in 1869, when it was at

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Oxford, the annual training took place at Aldershot. Previous to 1871, accommodation was provided in huts in lines in the North Camp, after this it was usually a camp under canvas in Rushmoor Bottom.

During 1870, a great deal was seen of the 12th Lancers, which culminated in their band playing the Regiment to the station on its departure. At most camps the Royal Bucks Militia were also near by. Queen Victoria's birthday fell generally during the training period, when, as a rule, the Militia Battalions were present with the regular garrisons at the big parade. In 1872 the Regiment gained the high approval of the Duke of Cambridge, who was present at Aldershot this year, and who expressed a wish that the whole of the men in the Regiment should be granted an exemption from duty for the remainder of the day.

In 1874, the training lasted six weeks, so as to allow of participation with the Regular Army in the annual manœuvres near Aldershot. In 1876 the United Kingdom was organized into eight Army Corps. The Headquarters of the 5th was at Salisbury under the command of General Almeric Spencer, who had served in the 43rd Light Infantry from 1825-1843, and was Colonel of the 43rd from June, 1869, until his death in August, 1893. In this corps were three Divisions : the 3rd, under General Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, consisted of two Militia brigades, in one of which were the two Gloucestershire Battalions, and the Oxfordshire, and in the other, the Royal Berkshire Militia and two battalions of the Tower Hamlets, whilst the Royal Bucks Militia and two companies of the 38th Regiment were allocated as

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Divisional troops. Though supposed to be mobilized, there was no transport, so that the Division at its training during July at Minchinhampton near Stroud, spent a quiet time! The Regiment was only 450 strong, as the recruits had done their "preliminary" drill in the spring, and were presumably not called up again. This year was also notable for the opening of Cowley Barracks, where on June 7, the depots of the 52nd and 85th took possession, being played up from the station by the band of the Militia Battalion. Captain Richard Pulteney, late Adjutant of the 52nd, succeeded Captain Sparke in the Adjutancy.

With the exception of the years 1877 and 1879, when the training took place at Cowley, the battalion went to Aldershot again every year until 1896.

Both in 1878 and 1880 the 52nd were quartered at Aldershot, and there was great interchange of hospitality between them and the Oxford and Royal Bucks Militia.

In 1880, Captain Pulteney having resigned, he was succeeded by Captain C. L. Boyle, whilst Lieutenant Somers Cocks of the 52nd acted as Musketry Instructor during this training. Changes in dress and equipment took place from time to time. In 1873, red serge jackets were introduced for officers. They were most comfortable, and serviceable, but were not a popular article of dress. After 1874, they were rarely seen until 1889, when they were reintroduced. In 1874, the old circular blocked forage-cap and the tunic were discarded and the men were given loose frocks and glengarries. The old forage cap scroll "Oxfordshire," which in 1858 had superseded the number "51" (the order of precedence of the battalion) was

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now abolished. In its place the officers adopted a braided badge, whilst for the men's glengarries a metal badge was introduced representing an ox in a ford. This year also for the first time, the bandsmen appeared in red frocks and glengarries, in place of the white tunics and rose-coloured caps, which they had worn hitherto. In 1876 the old cross-belts were abolished, and the rank and file were provided with two glengarries in lieu of one glengarry and a shako, the latter entirely disappearing. The facings of the Battalion, hitherto yellow, were this year changed to buff. In 1878 a spiked helmet was issued to officers and staff-sergeants, but it was not till 1895 that the remainder of the Battalion were so equipped.

Having become in 1881, the 5th Battalion of the Regiment, the battalion at the following year's training turned out dressed as a regular battalion, and Martini-Henri rifles replaced the Snider. The drum and fife band had also been abolished.

In 1883, at Aldershot as usual, the Battalion was attached to the 3rd Brigade, at this time under the command of Major-General H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. During this month the Duchess presented new colours to the Battalion on the Queen's Parade. The old set was eventually deposited in the County Hall at Oxford. This year also saw a coffee-bar, together with a reading-room and recreation tent, provided for the first time.

The following year, after thirteen consecutive trainings under canvas, the men were quartered in new brick barracks, and the officers in the old wooden huts. The Battalion was very weak, eight companies of twenty-four file only could be paraded.

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In 1855, Major H. A. Adair, formerly of the 52nd, succeeded, as Adjutant, Captain Boyle, who now became a regimental Captain.

The great event of the 1887 training (still at Aldershot) was the big "Jubilee" review before Queen Victoria on July 9, in the Long Valley. The force was divided into two Army Corps, the first consisting of Regulars and Militia formed in eight brigades, the second of Volunteers in fifteen brigades. The total under arms was nearly 60,000 men. The next four years were uneventful. After the training of 1891, Colonel the Hon. A. S. A. Annesley retired under the age regulations. He served for 43 years in the Battalion, the last 19 in command, and was subsequently appointed Honorary Colonel. He was succeeded by Colonel C. Rivers Bulkeley.

At the Queen's birthday parade of 1892 at Aldershot, the Battalion was the only Militia one which attended, the others declining on the ground of not being sufficiently advanced in their drills. It was complimented by Lieut.-General Sir Evelyn Wood (now in command at Aldershot) on the manner in which it had marched past. This year, for the first time, the men messed in two large marquees instead of in their own small tents.

In 1894, Captain E. A. Lethbridge succeeded Major Adair as Adjutant, this being the first under the new system of four-year appointments by Regular serving officers.

At the annual training, the Battalion formed part of a Militia Brigade under Colonel W. Livesay (Commanding the Depot) at Aldershot. Lee-Metford rifles were issued for the first time. In the following

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year, by order of the Duke of Connaught, white sword knots were given up in favour of black ones.

In 1896 the training lasted five weeks, the last two being spent at manœuvres with Regular troops. It did not commence till July 28, instead of May—June as ordinarily.

Captain R. G. H. Hughes had succeeded Captain Lethbridge before the next year's training commenced at Churn. The Royal Bucks and Royal Berkshire Battalions completed the Brigade under Colonel Howard Kingscote (commanding the Regimental Depot). The Battalion was very weak—23 officers and 497 other ranks. In 1898 the camp was pitched in Headington Park, whilst the year following it was at Perham Down in the month of August. The training proper was followed by ten days' manœuvres with Regular troops.

As the strength of the Battalion amounted now to only 353 other ranks, its establishment was reduced to that of six companies only.

The South African War broke out towards the end of 1899 and all the Subalterns who belonged to the Regiment had left to join the Army before the end of the year, but in spite of this clean sweep, the numbers were again complete before May, 1900, when the Regiment was embodied.

On embodiment the Regiment proceeded to Gosport where it was camped on Grange Field, which is now the Naval Aerodrome. It was Brigaded with the 4th Royal Munster Fusiliers and the 3rd Royal Dublin Fusiliers under the Command of Colonel Davies, late commanding the Militia of the Queens. The Dublin City Artillery were also camped on the same place.

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Soon after arrival in camp, the last portion of the Militia Reserve left for South Africa.

The summer was passed on the same camp without very much incident. Various detachments had to be found. A company at Tipnor Magazine and another party at Southampton Docks to furnish working parties. This latter was a popular job, at any rate with the officers, who were very comfortable in the South Western Hotel.

The Regiment was the first of the four to leave Grange Field which it did early in September. The other three remaining till the end of that month and completing their six months on the same ground. The Regiment moved into Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth, which they had to share with the newly formed battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The officers messed at the George Hotel and lodged where best they could. They remained there for about a month, when they moved into Victoria Barracks, which they shared with half a battalion of the 3rd Lincolns, the other half of which was in the Channel Islands.

Victoria Barracks was a very comfortable place, and the Regiment remained there till disembodiment the following July. The Lincoln officers messed with the officers and the two regiments were very good friends. There was very little for the officers to do during the winter, and they got a good deal of leave. Portsmouth had not got a great number of troops at the time, and there were a great number of working parties and fatigues to find. The men were earning quite a lot of extra money working in the gun wharf and on other jobs.

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The death of Queen Victoria at Osborne early in 1901 and the resulting coming and going of many distinguished personages, made every one at Portsmouth busy. When the funeral took place, the Regiment was sent by sea to Cowes where it lined the streets on the first day and got back to Barracks at about 6 p.m., after having been out about 12 hours. Soon after midnight the same night it turned out again and was sent up to London in the early hours. After a rather scanty breakfast, it was sent off to the Marble Arch, where it remained, just inside the Park. It was round an ambulance for some time, but was moved up shortly before the procession arrived and got a very good view of it. The moment the procession was over, it moved off and was back in Portsmouth soon after 6 p.m., after having been away for some 17 hours.

The next public function was the proclamation of King Edward at the Town Hall, at which a Guard of Honour under Captain Lord Aberdour formed the military Guard with a Naval Guard opposite and a Volunteer Guard on the third side.

Between this and the beginning of July there is little to record. There was but very little training work except for musketry for which parties were sent up to Fort Gomer. This and working parties used up pretty well the whole strength of the Battalion.

With the end of the embodiment ended the command of Colonel C. Rivers Bulkeley which had lasted for ten years. He was only the sixth commanding officer that the Regiment had had in 123 years. Colonel Bulkeley joined in 1858, and so had served 43 years. He was succeeded by Colonel F. Willan. In Decem-

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ber this year, Captain C. Parr took over the Adjutancy from Captain Hughes.

After the embodiment the Oxfordshire Militia did not train in 1902, but their recruits were attached to the Royal Bucks for musketry. They trained at Cowshot that year as their embodiment had ended in 1900.

In 1903 the Regiment trained at Cowshot Camp under Colonel Willan. This year was chiefly remarkable as being the first year since the embodiment when polo was started. Most of the officers were very much learners and there were not a great many ponies but there were many amusing games on the Stony Castle Camping Ground, which was obtained for this purpose.

In 1904 the training was at Browndown on a camp on the side of the ranges which was occupied several subsequent trainings and which suited very well. A polo ground was made here, near Privett station, which was later taken over by the Gosport Club. There was a great deal of polo and the ponies did a great deal of work. Two officers had yachts lying off Browndown. Colonel Strachan took the annual inspection.

The year 1906 found the Regiment at Browndown again, and it was an especially pleasant training. Very much polo. Twenty ponies out and 13 officers playing. Very wet for the first part of the training. On one occasion, when the Regiment was taken by sea to its mobilization scheme places, it rained 2.35 inches in the 24 hours, and all got a good soaking.

1906.—Again at Browndown. Lots of polo. The 52nd sent a team (Clayton, Weatherby, Ballard and

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Ponsonby) to play. The 4th Battalion, 60th, were at Gosport and some of them and Ramsay of the Middlesex Regiment, used often to come and play, which helped to make good games. In September, Captain F. H. Stapleton succeeded Captain Parr as adjutant.

In 1907 training was at Perham Down. The recruit party had a rough time beforehand, all their big tents being blown away, but after this the training was one of the best in memory. The 52nd was at Tidworth. We made a polo ground at Ludgershall, and several of the 52nd joined us on several occasions. There were also several nights that will be long remembered. It was a very convivial training.

The year 1908 saw the Regiment back at Browndown, but this time it had changed its number to 3rd instead of 4th Battalion, the old Royal Bucks having been done away with. It received a number of officers and men from the Royal Bucks and came out some 600 men with 20 officers. This was a great deal stronger than it had been any time since the beginning of the South African War.

Note.—I am indebted to *A History of the Oxfordshire Regiment of Militia*, by Lieut.-Colonel Frank Willan, for much of the information in this article; also to Captain Philip Godsal, who has supplied me with the details of the Regiment's history since 1900. A.J.F.E.

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OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Birthday Honours List.—Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams from K.C.V.O. to G.C.V.O.

New Year's Day Honours List.—Colonel J. F. C. Fuller to be C.B.E.

Captain G. Naylor, M.C., obtained " distinguished " in subjects C and D for promotion at the examination held in 1926.

Bandmaster E. Smith has succeeded Captain G. Mason as Quartermaster of the 43rd. Captain Mason has taken over Quartermaster of the Depot vice Captain Roberts, M.C., retired.

Colonel Guy Blewitt for the last two seasons has been Joint Master of the Essex and Suffolk Foxhounds, hunting the pack himself on the Essex side of the country.

Major J. W. G. Wyld has held the appointment of Assistant District Commissioner, Sudan Civil Service, in the Upper Nile Province since August, 1925.

Lieut.-Colonel R. L. Ovey has been appointed High Sheriff for Oxfordshire, 1927-8.

In 1925 a re-union dinner for officers who served in the 52nd during the Great War was held in London, which was such a success that it was decided to repeat it in 1926. The dinner was held at the Florence Restaurant in October 1926, and the following were present :—

Major-General H. R. Davies, Brig.-General A. J. F. Eden, Mr. E. K. Anderson, Lieut.-Colonel C. S. Baines, Mr. C. B. Baker, Mr. C. E. Baines, Mr. E. K.

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Blyth, Captain P. Booth, Captain N. G. Clarke, Mr. T. A. Coffin, Mr. F. H. Cowell, Mr. W. A. Creak, Mr. L. M. Crosfield, Lieut.-Colonel R. B. Crosse, Captain H. S. Eagle, Mr. J. E. Ellis, Captain C. A. F. Fowke, Mr. L. E. W. O. Fullbrook-Leggatt, the Rev. E. H. Gallop, Captain L. M. Giles, Mr. L. J. Goodwyn, the Rev. S. Minifi-Hawkins, Mr. V. C. Martin, Captain J. W. Meade, Major L. F. Scott, Captain J. B. Slade-Baker, Mr. J. Thorne, Capt. T. Tyrwhitt-Drake, Mr. C. P. Stephens, Mr. H. E. Wills, Mr. P. H. R. Whitehead, Captain E. H. Whitfeld, Mr. H. L. Windross, Major G. W. G. Wyld.

Marriages.

Brooke-Popham—Hugonin. On January 3, at All Saints Parish Church, Ledsham, near Castleford, Yorkshire, by His Grace the Archbishop of York, assisted by the Vicar of Leeds, the Vicar of Holkam and the Vicar of Chard, Air Vice-Marshal H. R. M. Brooke-Popham, only son of the late Mr. Henry Brooke, of Wetheringsett, Suffolk, to Opal Mary Hugonin, niece of Sir Granville Wheler, M.P., and Lady Wheler, of Ledston Hall, and younger daughter of Mr. Edgar Hugonin and the late Mrs. Hugonin.

Holt—Dugdale. On March 9, at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, by the Rev. P. Wilson, the Rev. H. D. L. Viener, Chaplain-in-Chief to the Air Force, and Rev. G. H. Colbeck, Air Commodore F. V. Holt, third son of the late Sir Vesey Holt, of Mount Mascal, Bexley, and of Lady Holt, of 67 Cadogan Place, to Marion Edith Dugdale, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dugdale, of Cadogan Gardens, and Rowney Priory, Hertfordshire.

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MAJOR L. TUNNARD.

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HOLT—WILLIAMS. On July 6, at Holy Trinity, Brompton, Captain Edward Holt, M.C., to Phyllis, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Q. E. Williams, 39 Lexham Gardens, Kensington.

EAGLE—JARVIS. On September 14, at All Saints', Ellingham, Captain Harold Samuel Eagle, 52nd Light Infantry, son of the late Percy Eagle and of Mrs. Eagle, to Elaine Scudamore, daughter of Major and Mrs. C. S. Jarvis.

TITHERINGTON—KENNEDY. On September 16, at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, by Prebendary A. W. Gough, Major Geoffrey Wrench Titherington to Mrs. Winifred Henrietta Kennedy.

STEPHENS—WROTTESLEY. On June 2, 1926, at the Marylebone Registry Office, Major Rupert Stephens, late 43rd Light Infantry, to the Hon. Mrs. Walter Wrottesley.

EXTRACT FROM THE "TARANKI HERALD" DATED THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1923.

A Reminiscence of the 43rd Regiment.

SIR,—The telegram in Tuesday's issue of the *Herald* informing us that the American, Toth, swam the Channel, from Cape Griz Nez to Dover, in 16 hours 54 minutes, reminds one that long ago a party of 43rd officers of a past generation performed what in their day was considered a remarkable feat by crossing the Channel—not by swimming it—but by pulling over in a racing gig. They not only had a close call in the realms of King Neptune in crossing, but had to reckon with the Duke of Wellington on their return. The following is the account of said "pull across the

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Channel." In 1845 several officers of the 43rd pulled from Dover to Boulogne in a racing gig. The crew was Captain Meade, the Hon. T. Cholmondeley, Lieut. Primrose, the Hon. Percy Herbert, Green Wilkinson and Dennis, with a beachman to steer. Half-way across, a squall came on, and they had to bale, and only by a narrow squeak was the French Port reached. When the Boulogne officials requested to know the tonnage of their "yacht," they volunteered to carry up the little canoe. Its exhibition caused much astonishment. The Mayor and authorities forthwith made them great lions. The following day they and their gig were triumphantly escorted on board the steamer for return to Dover. The incident, however, nearly cost them a reprimand; for the old Duke, chancing to be at Walmer at the time, would have had them pulled up for leaving the country without leave, had not Lord Fitzroy Somerset intervened.

I am, etc.,

September 11, 1923. W. F. GORDON.

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OBITUARY

SIR GEORGE ST. JOHN COLTHURST, 6th Bart. of Blarney Castle, Co. Cork, died on December 26, 1925, aged 75.

He joined the 43rd as Ensign on November 7, 1868, and was promoted Lieutenant on February 4, 1871, retiring from the Army two years later.

He subsequently joined the N. Cork Militia, and was appointed extra A.D.C. to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He was a very keen cricketer, and played a great deal for the " Na Shula " Club in Ireland.

LIEUT.-COLONEL WILLIAM HARCOURT SAWYER died at Maidenhead on December 13, aged 83. He passed first out of the R.M.C., Sandhurst, and was gazetted Ensign in the 43rd Light Infantry in January, 1869. He was promoted Lieutenant in July, 1871, and Captain seven years later. He was Adjutant from December, 1871, until July, 1877. In the following year he transferred to another regiment.

MAJOR LUKE TUNNARD died at sea on board the S.S. *Rajputana*, in the Indian Ocean, on July 20, 1926, when coming home on sick leave from India.

The son of Christopher Tunnard, of Tyninghame, East Lothian, N.B., he was born on September 12, 1880.

Educated at Malvern, he passed into the Army through Sandhurst, and was gazetted to the Regiment on August 11, 1900.

Joining the 52nd at Colaba, Bombay, in May, 1901, he returned to England with them in 1903 and con-

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tinued to serve with them until May, 1909. In this year he was attached to the Egyptian Army and posted to the 3rd Battalion at El Obeid, being subsequently transferred to the 14th Sudanese Battalion.

With this Battalion he saw service, and did duty in most of the Sudan Nile districts from Kajo Kaji down to Khartoum.

In 1913 he was appointed Inspector of the Bor district and held this post until he left Egypt.

For his services in the Sudan he was awarded the Order of the Nile and the Egyptian medal.

The outbreak of war in 1914 found him still in the Sudan, and in spite of his efforts to rejoin the Regiment, it was not until May, 1915, that he was allowed to leave his duties in Egypt.

He was then given six months leave to fight, and ordered to join the 2nd Royal Fusiliers in Gallipoli.

On June 4 he reported himself for duty at his new regimental head-quarters, whilst a heavy action was in progress, and that same day only a few hours after his arrival, when most gallantly leading an attack forward, fell very severely wounded.

He was not passed fit for active service again until 1922, being employed in the meantime as a D.A.A.G. Home Forces, and Staff Captain, War Office. He was then posted to the 52nd at Lichfield, just prior to their departure for India. He continued to serve with them as Second in Command of the Battalion until his death.

His promotions had been dated as follows :—to Lieutenant, June 23, 1903; Captain, January 22, 1910; Major, September 1, 1915.

Luke Tunnard was an example of the best type of regimental officer.

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His whole interests were centred on the Regiment, and all that it stood for, and with it he found his greatest happiness.

Possessor of a generous nature, a most equable temperament, and an unfailing cheerfulness, he contrived in spite of bad health and severe physical disability, caused by his old wound, to extract and to pass on to others much enjoyment out of the small things in life.

MR. HUGH CECIL LEA died at his residence, 14 Grafton Street, London, on January 29, 1926.

He enlisted into the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, December 16, 1887, at the age of 18 years, and 9 months. He served with the 1st Battalion in England and Ireland until January, 1891, when he was posted to the Depot; appointed Lance-Corporal, July, 1889; appointed probationary Staff Clerk (Corporal), Army Pay Department, June 10, 1891; unpaid Lance-Sergeant, May 11, 1892; transferred to the Army Reserve, Section B, December, 1892; discharged at his own request on payment of £18, November 6, 1898. He subsequently became a London County Councillor and a Member of Parliament for East St. Pancras, representing the constituency from 1906-10.

In spite of a severe operation in December, 1914, Mr. Lea joined the Rifle Brigade in April, 1915, as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was attached to the Staff of Brigadier-General Colomb, and later became Provost Marshal at Seaford Camp.

Soon after leaving the Regiment, Mr. Lea started to collect medals gained solely by men of the 43rd Light Infantry. It was a work of many years, but on

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October 27, 1922, he presented to the 43rd a unique and magnificent collection of 706 medals in ten cases. He also presented a large collection of books to the 43rd, and several medals to the 52nd. In Mr. Lea, the Regiment has lost a very great friend, and a great benefactor.

The funeral took place at Hampstead Cemetery on Wednesday, February 3rd, 1926. Representatives of the officers, warrant officers and sergeants of the Regiment attended.

No. 2065 PRIVATE GEORGE GARLAND died at Fulbeck, Lincs., at the age of 62.

He enlisted at Hounslow into the Regiment on September 10, 1885, at the age of 19, and afterwards served with the 52nd in India and Burmah, obtaining the Indian Frontier Medal, with clasp for Burmah 1889-92.

On completing his time with the Colours, he entered the G.P.O. in London, and in 1900 was called out with Section D, Army Reserve, and served with the 43rd in South Africa, until the end of the war. He was awarded the two S. African medals, with clasps for Relief of Kimberley—Paardeberg—Driefontein, and Transvaal. After the war he returned to the Post Office, and in 1911 obtained the Coronation Medal. In May, 1918, after nearly twenty-five years service in the Post Office, he retired owing to ill health, and returned to settle down in his native place, Fulbeck. An officer of the Regiment who knew him intimately and who was present at his funeral, writes: "He was a man of the finest character—absolutely loyal to his King, Regiment, and country." He leaves a widow and three sons.

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